

Bulletin

23

Volume 24 Number 6

April 2000

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

2000 Budget Passed

by Herb Johnson

The Roosevelt Borough Council passed a Municipal Budget for the year 2000 which reduced the municipal tax rate from \$0.77 to \$0.69 per \$100 valuation. The four members of the Council present at the Regular Meeting of the Council on March 20 approved the resolution to adopt the budget which showed a "local tax levy for municipal purposes" to raise \$245,818, which is \$23,000 less than the 1999 proposed amount. Bert Ellentuck pointed out that the budget could have needed to raise \$66,000 less if it did not project such a low rate of collection of taxes. That low rate meant that instead of providing a reserve for uncollected taxes the same as in 1999, which was \$1,000 more than the average such reserve for the previous four years, the Council decided to provide \$170,000 for the reserve. The "tax levy for municipal purposes" for 2000 is \$75,775. That is \$66,000 less than the municipal tax levy for 1999, which could have resulted in a tax rate decrease of \$0.23 per \$100 valuation. The reduction in the rate was made possible by increasing the amount of surplus from the previous year's surplus to be used in the F.Y. 2000 budget by \$45,500 more than was used in the F.Y. 1999 budget, while increasing the appropriations by only \$20,000. The Net Valuation Taxable for the Borough is shown to be \$35,167,000 which is 0.6 percent more than the 1999 valuation.

Assisting Mayor Hamilton and the Council in answering questions or responding to suggestions or objections were the Chief Financial Officer, Edward J. Debevec and the Borough's Accountant and Auditor, Gerard Stankiewicz. The Council members who were present were Rose Murphy, Michael Stiles, John Towle and George Vasseur. Those absent were Paul Hoogsteden and Harry Parker. In the audience for most of the long meeting were 24 people. These addressed comments to the Mayor and Council after

announcing their names: Nona Sherak, Bert Ellentuck, Reenah Petrics, Susan Dermody, Pearl Seligman, Lois Hunt, David Ticktin, Neil Marko, Dina Coe, Jeff Hunt, Deirdre Sheean, Ann Baker, Diane Rocchia and Herb Johnson.

After describing seven correspondences sent to the Council, the Mayor gave a report of his official activities, in part crediting Bruce Reimbold for contacting the Department of Environmental Protection of NJ about allowing the Borough to make the deserted gas station safer. Under committee reports, Mrs. Murphy said fire

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENIOR CITIZENS:

Transportation for medical appointments and therapy
SHARE A RIDE
(VAN - GO)
1-732-747-0816
Monday-Wednesday-Friday 8-4
Thursday evening 4-8
Saturday 8-4
Call before 9:00 a.m. on the day before appointment
Handicap Accessible
\$2.00 each way
(dialysis non-sponsored) \$ 4.00 each way
Serves all of Monmouth County

* * * * *

Clean Communities Spring Clean-Up
April 9th
meet at the Post Office,
10 a.m.

* * * * *

It's Spring Time!
Watch your Speed
the Kids are coming out

* * * * *

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS:

IF YOU HAVE RECENTLY BORROWED CHAIRS FROM THE BOROUGH HALL, PLEASE RETURN THEM. 11 CHAIRS ARE MISSING. THESE ARE THE PUTTY COLORED, METAL CHAIRS. THEY ARE NOT THE PROPERTY OF THE BOROUGH BUT RATHER BELONG TO THE ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT. IN THE FUTURE, IT MAY BE THAT RESIDENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO REQUEST THEIR USE FROM A MEMBER OF THE ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT.

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Lawsuit Comes In, Public Goes Out

by Bob Clark

During months of hearings in 1999 on the failed application to subdivide the 110-acre Notterman tract to create 65 residential building lots, members of the public cross-examined the would-be developer's witnesses. They also said a lot about statements made by attorneys and Planning Board members. In addition, they admonished the Board to be sure to let the public participate during all stages of consideration of the proposal. They worried aloud that the public would not have a chance to present its facts, expert testimony or views before the Board's decision on the application. Several Board members agreed that the applicant should not have insisted on a decision before all of the Board's witnesses or any of the public's witnesses could be heard. Then the Board denied the application in October 1999.

Four of those very vocal members of the public: Mayor Michael Hamilton, Kate John-Alder, Ralph Seligman and Jane Rothfuss, became members of a newly constituted Planning Board in January. Then, on January 21, Abby and Daniel Notterman filed a lawsuit against the Board in response to its October 1999 denial of the application by the Matzel and Mumford Organization (M&M) to develop the Nottermans' property, lying between the Solar Village and the Cemetery.

The Board met on February 9 to discuss details of M&M's development proposal as part of a settlement procedure approved by courts in similar cases. The Board briefly closed that meeting to the public in order to discuss procedural aspects of the lawsuit with its attorney, Michele Donato. It reopened the meeting to the public to discuss how to resolve, to the Board's satisfaction issues, raised by M&M's plans in order to settle the lawsuit. The Board adjourned the discussion until its March 8 regular monthly meeting.

At the March 8 meeting, the public was excluded from all discussions about Notterman tract development. They could not, as a result, hear Board members' views about such things as the sanctity of the 100-ft. buffer, the importance of preserving the hedgerow, where a new water tower should go, whether any new houses should be allowed near Eleanor Lane or the like. Who said what about such issues was for the Board members, not the public, to know.

The procedure was legal, although not required by law. Neither new members, nor members remaining from the 1999 Board, expressed any public objection to giving the public the boot. Ms. John-Alder arrived after the meeting was closed to the public. Mark Roberts was absent.

According to Board Chairwoman Gail Hunton, Board Attorney Donato had advised that New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act (also called the Sunshine Law) permits the Board to exclude the public from discussions of litigation pending against the Board. However, the law does not require the Board to exclude the public from such discussions. Barring the public anyway could head off a lawsuit catastrophe, such as the plaintiff learning that a Board member said something like, "Oh, let's go ahead and be arbitrary and capricious about that buffer; that way they'll never get to develop anything."

Ms. Hunton noted that Ms. Donato was out of town on March 8. Therefore, she could not warn the Board if any open discussion were straying into areas that could create problems for the Borough's position in the lawsuit. However, Board members did not say whether they would have opened the March 8 meeting if Ms. Donato had been able to attend.

Ms. Hunton said the Board was following a settlement procedure approved by a trial level court in 1987 in a case called *Whispering Woods v. Middletown Township*. Under that procedure the public eventually would be brought back into the process. There would be a public meeting for the Board to vote whether to approve the written terms of any settlement. Then, a public hearing would be held on any revised plan.

At the February 9 meeting, when the public was excluded solely from the discussion of litigation strategy, Ms. Donato said the Board could consider a settlement in open or closed session, as it preferred. Chairwoman Hunton said, "It behooves [the Board] to discuss [this] openly in the spirit of the community." Some other Board members agreed. They did not say why they changed their minds at the March 8 meeting.

In other action, the Board approved by a 6-3 vote hiring

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Continued from Page 1

hydrant flushing would be done "next week." Mr. Vasseur contacted Nelson Tree Service and got them to agree to clean up logs they left by the sides of streets, and to plant some trees at certain locations. Mr. Towle attended a briefing on the 2000 Census. None of the representatives to community groups had a report.

After the Public Hearing on the Budget, the Council passed it and a resolution to avoid having the State of New Jersey examine the budget.

It next passed an ordinance to have all committee meetings of the Council to be held on the third and fourth Mondays of each month. Next it passed 7 other resolutions, including authorizing a public auction of Borough equipment, refunding overpaid taxes, appointing John Ross as Borough Attorney for the balance of

the year, and other business. It passed two motions to allow the Borough Hall to be used by residents on April 1 and May 7.

The Council approved of paying February bills for \$140,000 of Current fund expenses and \$15,000 Water/Sewer fund expenses. Under "Good and Welfare," David Ticktin asked the Council to monitor, photograph for record-keeping, clean-up and try to prevent "death threats" and other graffiti anywhere in town. He reported that the macadam walkway between North Valley Road and Lake Drive had such graffiti painted on it. Mr. Stiles said the State Police were notified about the occurrence.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m. ■

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Continued from Page 3

the firm of Clarke Caton Hintz to prepare revisions to the Borough's Master Plan. As Planning Consultant, the firm, through its representative Michael Sullivan, will prepare land use, conservation and circulation elements for an amount not to exceed \$19,000. ■

RECYCLING DATES

April 12, 26

May 10, 24

June 7, 21

SCHOOL is OPEN!



Watch your Speed!

**The speed limit on most streets in Roosevelt is 25 mph,
on School Lane it is 15 mph.**

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

During my campaign for mayor, I stressed the need to manage Roosevelt's borough finances carefully. This was not campaign rhetoric; I consider it a matter of survival for our town and our taxpayers. Every dollar counts here. In municipal or school budgets, \$10,000 in additional expense translates to \$30 per year in taxes for the average homeowner.

On March 20, at the public budget hearing, the Council approved the borough budget for the year 2000. Although by law the mayor has no part in the preparation of or the vote for the budget, I attended almost every meeting where the Council was formulating the budget. Since taking office as Mayor, I have immersed myself in Roosevelt borough finances and I have learned a lot in the process.

How Much Is Too Much Surplus?

Over the past few years, Roosevelt has accumulated a borough budget surplus of \$566,811. Now a certain amount of "cushion" is a good thing in a budget, but too much means that we have overtaxed our homeowners consistently.

Our \$566,811 surplus represents 70.5% of our general budget of \$803,859. Since I recently took office, I wanted to find out if carrying a 70.5% budget surplus (as a percentage of the general budget) is excessive. To obtain this budget information I spoke to the borough clerks in the surrounding communities. This is what I found:

Municipality	General Budget	Surplus	Surplus % (Of general budget)
Roosevelt	803,859	566,811	70.5%
Millstone	7,322,087	3,601,214	49.18%
Cranbury	6,152,752	898,570	14.6%
Hightstown	4,117,562	463,999	11.26%
Allentown	1,509,627	455,742	30.19%

Average surplus, surrounding communities 30.5%

Although there seems to be wide variation in the percentage of surplus in these budgets, it is apparent that we are carrying an extraordinarily large surplus as a percentage

of our general budget. For example, Hightstown with a general budget of over \$4,000,000 has a surplus of about \$465,000, while Roosevelt with a general budget of only \$803,000 has a surplus of \$567,000. Even Millstone, which is developing rapidly and wants to pay cash for purchasing open space and recreational fields as well as providing for the increasing cost of expanding services to accommodate development, carries 21% less budget surplus than Roosevelt.

How Did We Accumulate Such A Large Surplus?

Over the years, I have seen a consistent pattern of over-budgeting on many line items. For instance, in the year 2000 budget, almost \$56,000 has been allocated (taxed) for public works employees and associated expenses, although in 1999 only around \$16,000 was spent on these line items. In 1998, over \$76,000 was budgeted (taxed) for this department although only a fraction of it was used. All of this unspent (overtaxed) money becomes surplus and accumulates like layers of fat. Clearly, it is time for the Council to go on an economic diet and stop bingeing on taxpayer dollars. It is also time to more carefully plan and articulate our anticipated expenses. Yes, it is true that emergencies happen, equipment fails and pipes burst. However, it is also true that even these expenses can be planned for. Equipment has an expected life span; replacements and repairs can be identified systematically and the overall need planned for in budgets.

The Borough Banking Policy: How Much Interest Does Our Money Earn?

So, what happens to all of that surplus? Where is Roosevelt's money kept? Do we earn interest on all of our bank accounts? Can the interest earned be used to lower taxes? About a month ago, I asked these questions and here is what I found:

As reflected in the year 2000 budget, the total borough surplus (general fund surplus of \$567,000 and the separate water/sewer fund surplus of \$203,000) totaled about \$770,000. Our bank accounts always had at least that amount of money in them; often our balance was more than \$1 million dollars. For instance, on December 31, 1999, the borough had a combined balance of \$1,135,562 in its bank accounts. In 1999, the borough earned around

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SCHOOL NEWS

School Board News

by Nancy Hamilton

The Roosevelt Board of Education met on February 24th and March 9th. The Board is gearing up for School Board Elections on April 18th and has worked hard to develop a budget that will bring a tax rate cut to Roosevelt residents for the 2000-01 school year.

The tentative budget was approved by the School Board at the February 24th meeting, and was formally presented to the public on March 23rd. Even though the actual size of the budget is larger (\$2,061,742 as opposed to \$1,984,975 last year), the proposed taxes for next year will reflect a rate-drop of 14 cents. The borough has received increased revenues from the State from two sources: refund of penalties assessed for what the state considered to be excessive administrative costs, and deferred revenues for special education program funding. In addition, \$97,000 from the district's unreserved balance was applied to next year's budget.

The Board continues to approach the State about receiving its fair share of state aid. At the February 24th meeting, the Board reviewed a letter written by Sharlene Ellentuck and Lauralynne Cokeley to Commissioner Hespe describing our tax plight. A copy of this letter was sent to State Senator Singer who also wrote to Commissioner Hespe asking as to what action the State Department of Education is planning to take to alleviate our tax problem. Roosevelt citizens have been writing to Assemblyman Malone and to the State Department of Education about our situation. Members of the community are encouraged to correspond with our state legislatures and the Department of Education by mail or e-mail to describe our situation. Mary Tulloss and Delores Chasan have been working on a letter for the community to sign. (see insert)

Reenah Petrics attended the February 24th meeting expressing concern about potential East Windsor Regional

Schools' budget cuts that would affect our students in middle and high school. It was reported at the March 9th meeting that the gifted and talented program is not being cut. It is unclear at this time as to what programmatic changes may occur in East Windsor.

Petitions have been received from Adrienne Cheshier, Sharlene Ellentuck, David Ticktin and Mary Tulloss as candidates for the three Board of Education positions that are up for election. The election and budget vote is on April 18th.

At the March 9th meeting, Dr. Weinbach reported on upcoming school events. Standardized testing will be the week of April 10th. Kindergarten registration will have taken place on March 20th and 21st. DARE graduation took place on March 14th; the Health Fair was on March 15th. A total of \$825 was raised from the obstacle course-a-thon run by Kathy Masella.

Congratulations to Liz Gagliardi who has been nominated for the Governor's teacher recognition Program. Dr. Weinbach also commended Ms. Cvecich and Ms. Brindle for their implementation of the 100 Days of School celebration.

Board committees continue to work actively. The policy manual is being revised. Building and Grounds has received official notice that the soil around the unused oil tank is not contaminated. The committee is obtaining quotes for roof repairs.

The Board is in the process of assessing current levels of satisfaction with the programs at Kreps Middle School and Hightstown High School. A survey has been distributed to parents of students in these schools, and an open forum will be held on April 6 at 7:30.

The next meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education was at the budget hearing on March 23rd. ■

Letter From the CSA, Dale Weinbach

The movement currently gaining momentum in Roosevelt to obtain tax relief from state government provides a vital lesson to our students and young citizens. Members of the board of education, concerned residents, and the mayor and council have joined together with a multi-faceted plan to reach the governor, legislature, and officials at the department of education, to explain our plight and obtain financial support. What better example than this to demonstrate positive, collaborative actions to our children? Our students can witness the steps that can be taken in a democracy when proper channels are followed and people work together. I recommend that everyone to complete and return census information. That data, too, contributes to accurate financial support.

In the meantime, the board has completed a budget for the 2000-2001 school year that holds a tight rein on expenses without detracting from our quality educational programming. I trust the residents of Roosevelt will be well informed on the contents of the budget and vote to have it approved.

Parents of middle and high school students will be receiving a survey in the mail regarding their impressions of the program of the East Windsor School District. These parents and their sons and daughters are invited to attend an open forum at RPS on April 6 at 7:30 p.m. At this time

members of the Board of Education and I will entertain views regarding the strengths and weaknesses of these programs prior to our meeting with officials from East Windsor.

In April, a new standardized test will be administered in grades 2,3 and 5. This test, Terra Nova, is similar in format to the ESPA (Elementary School Proficiency Assessment) that is administered to all fourth graders in the state. Test results will help us to both analyze curriculum needs and prescribe programming for individual needs of students.

During March and April performers from the organization *Arts for Anyone* will be conducting several sessions with Roosevelt students. These sessions will culminate with a performance in May. The theme on which the students will be working is tolerance. This program is supported by a grant from the Sunshine Foundation and the generosity of the Roosevelt PTA.

On Monday, April 17, the Kreps band will be visiting school and performing for us. School will be closed for spring break this year from April 20 through April 30. Classes resume on May 1.

Happy spring to one and all. ■

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

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\$30,000 interest on its accounts. Generally, the borough has consistently averaged less than 3% interest on taxpayers money.

About a month ago, I met with a representative from one of the two repositories where we banked most of our money. What I discovered was disturbing to me. I found that over the years the borough had money in accounts that were earning very little, if any interest. Some accounts held several hundred thousand dollars on which we earned no interest. Other accounts were being held in low-interest checking and money market

accounts. When I asked the banker if we could have earned more interest on these accounts she indicated that she felt we could have easily and safely been earning over 5% interest on almost all of our money. When I asked why she did not make these changes, she said that no borough official had ever questioned why Roosevelt's accounts produced either no interest or below market rate interest as compared with the bank accounts of other communities.

If we had been taking care of business the way we should have over the years, the borough could have earned

between \$20,000 to \$30,000 more interest every year on our taxpayer's dollars. This translates to a \$60-\$100 tax reduction for the average Roosevelt homeowner every year.

Two years ago, I first advised the Council at a budget hearing that the school earned around 5% interest. I questioned why the borough's bank accounts averaged less than 3% interest. I was told that municipal finance was governed by different laws than school finance and that the borough could not earn more in interest. Last year when I brought up the issue again, in spite of the fact that there

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Roosevelt Community Nursery School Newsletter

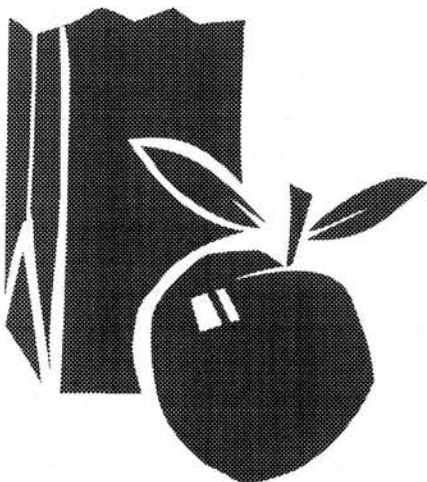
by Ginny Weber

Everyone knows April showers bring May flowers. Our students are going to learn all about how rain helps us and about the water cycle. We will also talk about water conservation.

Machines and technology are a part of our everyday life. The children will learn about simple and complex machines and how they affect us. How would we live without modern technology?

Since Earth Day is April 22, our children will make litter bags to throw trash away instead of littering. We'll learn how we can take care of our earth by keeping our air, water and land clean. We will also discuss the earth's shape and make our own earth collages.

Our students are participating in our second annual mini-march for cystic fibrosis on May 2 outside the school. It's a rewarding experience for the children to be able to help other children who are sick. We prepare for the event with a week filled with related activities and discussions so that the children better understand why they are having the mini-march. It's also a day of great fun for all. Come and cheer us on if you can!! ■



From The PTA

by Kelly Mitchell

It came, it went
with great success
Winter Carnival.
Many, many thanks
to all volunteers & donators

Springtime is here
Butterflies & fireflies appear.
Must mean one thing
school dance is near.
April 14th
Looking forward to some new
dance moves.

Much planning ahead
many things to prepare
Town Wide yard sale
May 6 & 7th
looking forward to many people
signed up on the map.

Oh My!
It can't be true
PTA's PO Box
has come down with the blues
Hurry there is no time to waste
There is just one cure
send in a recipe or two or three
that should help for sure. ■

RABIES CLINICS IN MONMOUTH COUNTY:

April 12th Neptune City 6 p.m.-7 p.m.
Public Works Garage, 49th Way

PLEASE REMEMBER TO LEASH YOUR
DOGS.

BE A THOUGHTFUL NEIGHBOR AND
PICK UP AFTER YOUR PETS.

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB NEWS

by Herb Johnson, Secretary

Mayor Michael Hamilton and two members of the Borough Council, Rose Murphy and George Vasseur attended the club's business meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at the Borough Hall. They came to discuss remedying the inadequacy of transportation for senior citizens. The SCAT bus to take seniors grocery shopping every Wednesday around 11:00 a.m. has been reliable. The club arranges for a SCAT bus once a month, usually on the third Tuesday of the month, to take seniors to a shopping center by 10:00 a.m., to a place for lunch about 1:00 p.m., and to return to Roosevelt by 3:00 p.m. In December and January, the bus failed to be provided. The Monmouth County transportation office promised to make up for the January failure. The club is trying to decide when a second trip to a shopping center in one month will be desirable. Councilwoman Murphy said that the Borough pays about \$700 per year to the county for the SCAT bus service, to transport seniors for shopping and for appointments with doctors in Monmouth County. Club members said they have been complaining for years that seniors in Roosevelt have not been treated fairly, because Roosevelt is on the western edge of the county and many residents have doctors in Hightstown, the Windsors, Princeton, Cranbury and other towns in Mercer and Middlesex Counties. They asked for the mayor's help in arranging cooperative agreements with those two counties. Dolores Chasan pointed out that Mercer County Community College has an agreement with Monmouth County to treat Roosevelt residents the same as residents of Mercer County. Mayor Hamilton said he would speak with Assemblyman Malone within a week about the problem and he would

arrange a meeting with state and county officials to improve the transportation services. He also would see if the School Board and the Borough Council could purchase and maintain a large van or small bus that could be used by the school and senior citizens.

In the meantime, Mrs. Chasan announced that the county provides rides for doctor's appointments in Monmouth County for \$2.00 each was, on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Thursday, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. by calling 1-732-747-0816 two days in advance. (See announcements on page 2.)

Mrs. Murphy suggested that the club consider merger with other senior citizen groups. She said three clubs in eastern Monmouth County merged, have over 2,000 members, and provide a wide range of services for members.

The club had a report from the Sunshine Committee Chair Louise Baronowitz that no one had been sick and a Treasurer's report from Dolores Chasan. Thelma Thompson presided. Toby Levin provided refreshments after the meeting. A Monmouth County Visiting Nurse took blood pressures from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The third Tuesday and the fourth Friday occurred in the same week in March. A bus trip to Delicious Orchards, with lunch at Maxwell's in Colts Neck, was scheduled for Tuesday, March 21 at 9:15 a.m., and members had box-lunches at the Solar Village meeting room on Friday, March 24 at 12:30 p.m. ■

MONMOUTH COUNTY LIBRARY ROOSEVELT BRANCH

**HOURS:
MONDAY: 7:00 P.M.—8:30 P.M.**

**350 NEW BOOKS HAVE BEEN
ADDED
TO THE COLLECTION WITH MORE
TO COME.**

COME AND BROWSE!

Be aware of what's going on:
Attend the monthly Council and
Planning Board meetings.

Be Involved !
It's Your Town !

COMMUNITY NEWS

STATE POLICE TIPS TO PREVENT CARJACKING

The following is provided by the State Police Public Information Unit for your use.

With 25,000 carjackings occurring throughout the nation each year, the New Jersey State Police is reminding motorists that an extra measure of caution and safety can prevent tragedy.

In New Jersey there were 418 carjacking offenses reported to police in 1998, involving 468 victims, including passengers. Carjackings decreased 12% when comparing 1998 to 1997. The New Jersey State Police Community Policing Safety Bulletin serves to remind everyone that awareness and common sense is the best defense in decreasing these numbers further.

The State Police offers the following advice to help guard against carjacking and other situations:

- Park only in busy, well-lighted areas.
- Keep any valuables in the trunk or out of sight
- Be aware of your surroundings. When returning to your parked car, glance in the back seat and under the car before opening the doors.
- Have your keys out and ready to unlock your car door. When you get in, lock the doors immediately.
- Install an anti-theft device that has a panic button which can be activated if you sense trouble.
- Beware of "bump and rob" techniques - a method in which thieves in one car pull up behind an unsuspecting driver and bump the driver's car. When the driver gets out to inspect the damage, thieves forcibly take control of the car. If bumped by another car, write down the license plate and drive to the nearest police station.
- If confronted by a carjacker, don't resist.

Following the guidelines can help you avoid dangerous, potentially deadly situations. The New Jersey State Police Community Policing Unit is available to provide additional information on this and other topics. If you would like further information, contact Trooper Chris Reinhart 609-452-2600 ext. 5254. ■

**DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON APRIL 18TH
SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION
2:30 to 9 p.m. Borough Hall**

LETTERS

The Editor:

On an autumn day in 1968, I brought my wife Lillian to a town which I remembered fondly from visits twenty years earlier. Roosevelt was at its most beautiful, ablaze with gold and red maple leaves.

We passed a yard with a sign reading Real Estate. "Let's knock and pretend we want to buy a house," I suggested. A pleasant young couple invited us to share breakfast, an exotic serving of lox and bagels. Then they showed us a house, "We'll take it," I said, surprising myself and my listeners; but, seeing in it an excellent base for my work overseas. It was inexpensive. Property taxes and utility fees were negligible. It needed painting. The woods in front and behind it were lovely.

The people of Roosevelt chatted with each other at Sol Berg's store across from the school, at parties after the June primary school graduation which everyone went to, at the monthly bookmobile, at the annual art show by Roosevelt painters in private houses, at the fourth of July gathering before the fireworks. They invited each other to dinner and parties or simply dropped in. A neighbor brought us sorrel soup and lectured my wife on her conjugal duties. Her husband, a retired tailor, patched our clothes. We picked up hitch-hikers going to Hightstown or, in Hightstown, at the corner by Peddie School. We went to dances at the synagogue. We chartered a bus to go to Washington to protest the Vietnam war.

A siren on the school roof, installed to warn of Nazi air

attacks, summoned the first aid and fire squads and told us when the school was closed because of snow. There was more snow in those days. One snowfall blocked the road between Roosevelt and Ely's Corner. There had been a local newspaper but it stopped publishing in the seventies. People exchanged local news by word of mouth. For many residents, the town was the center of their lives.

Wilbur Loftus, the town policeman, told me hilarious stories about the escapades of naughty youngsters, now grown into respectable businessmen. Like everyone else, we unknowingly broke the law: a town ordinance prohibited stores from selling milk with less than three percent butterfat content. For several years after we came, Lillian unwittingly violated the ordinance prohibiting women from wearing shorts in public.

The Jersey summers were hot, languorous and long. We joined Hilltop Pool. Young people were bored. "What do you do during the summer?" my daughter asked. "Stand on the corner and tell people how to get to the shore."

The town had its own phone book, rapidly becoming out of date because Roosevelt's way of life was changing. Older, working-class, single-income Jewish families were moving out. Sol Berg closed his store and retired to Florida. The young middle-class, two-income families moving in either gradually formed a new Establishment or soon moved on. Instead of returning, the children of the first settlers became professionals and rarely came back.

The surprisingly adaptable two hundred original Bauhauses were being modernized and transformed from working-class to middle-class houses. Residents installed baseboard heating, and under the stimulus of the 1972 OPEC embargo, switched from oil to gas. They covered the flat roofs (which leaked) with peaked roofs (which cooled the houses in summer and warmed them in winter). They installed picture windows. Some built second stories.

New houses were built - about seventy-five during the seventies - on Farm Lane, Lake Drive and Pine Drive. They were contemporary, not Bauhaus in design, just like the new houses in neighboring towns, except for the quaint dome houses which were briefly built by a company in the factory on Oscar Drive. Gardening was popular.

Gradually becoming acquainted when I returned from working abroad, I met intelligent, likable, well-read, stimulating people. Ed Roskam interviewed me and everyone else for a book he was writing about the town. I brought Morris Bressler, the Red Army veteran turned insurance salesman, turned Russian studies teacher at The Lawrenceville School, the Russian-language edition of *Gulag Archipelago* from Paris. In return, he told me about the visit of the Russian poet Yevtuchenko to Roosevelt and explained why Yevtuchenko was a great poet, reciting a poem of his about Italian partisans in the war. Ralph Seligman asked me to comment on the economies of towns for which he was planner and persuaded me to prepare an economic

Continued on Page 12

LETTERS

Continued from Page 11

forecast for the new master plan.

On the bus from New York a burley workman sat next to me. "Whadda you do?" he asked. "I'm an economist," I said, thinking the poor fellow didn't know what an economist was, "What do you do?" I asked politely. "I'm a retired proletarian," he answered, starting a friendship that lasted until his death ten years later: Ed Schlinski had read everything. He introduced me to Maipaul's *A Bend In The River*. He lived on Lake Drive and criticized "the rich snobs who live in downtown Roosevelt."

I had no time to renew an old

friendship with Ben Shahn who died shortly after we came. He was buried on a cold, rainy March day. The lane to the cemetery was still unpaved and muddy. I had the feeling that he had returned to his native village in Lithuania.

I never went to Council meetings. The town ran smoothly without my presence. It wasn't until long after Isadore Sachowitz's death that I realized why it ran so smoothly. He grew up in Jersey Homesteads. He became Borough Clerk, operator of the water and sewer plants and health inspector in Roosevelt and had other jobs around Roosevelt. He inspected the

water purity at Sunny Heights nudist club, for example.

In all but title, he was Roosevelt's town manager, researching and proposing ideas to the Mayor and Council. When New Jersey implemented the Clean Water Act, he prepared the request to have the State fund a study to upgrade the sewer plant. His premature death in 1979 ended an era.

Next month, I will describe the dramatic changes that took place in Roosevelt during the eighties.

Peter Warren

To the Editor,

I was quite surprised and dismayed recently when I found out that the taxpayers of Roosevelt had lost out on tens of thousands of dollars of available interest on the cash held in bank accounts by the borough and the Water and Sewer Department.

Although neither the Chief Financial Officer of Roosevelt, Ed Debevec, nor the Borough Council could tell me the average balance on deposit when I inquired at the recent budget hearing, it appears to run between one and two million dollars. As unbelievable as it sounds, little or no interest was being earned on this money. No sane individual would put a thousand dollars in the bank without getting a market rate of interest, let alone a million or two. Roosevelt didn't even get a toaster.

Despite the fact that Mr. Debevec aggressively invests the bank balances of Millstone Twp., for instance, where he also serves as Chief Financial Officer, he failed to do the same for Roosevelt. When I asked him why, he sheepishly gave a number of reasons, such as that nobody ever asked him to, and that he was too busy and filling out the forms at the bank was time consuming. He also mumbled something about not getting a sufficient raise. When I asked him how it came to pass that our accounts were recently consolidated and that we now earn a good rate of return on our funds, he said (get the Digitalis) that Mike Hamilton had called and asked him to do it. Incredibly, a simple request by the mayor was all it took. Thanks to Mayor Hamilton, the taxpayers can now look forward to a substantial additional source of funds to help offset taxes.

The Council has been adamant in insisting on forcing its choices of legal and financial advisors on the mayor despite his misgivings. In light of the above, the least the Council should do is exercise some oversight over these people. After all, it is the Council which is ultimately responsible.

Some members of the Council have been there for a long, long time. Maybe they're tired. Maybe they should retire this November and let others with more energy and more interest in watching how our money is handled take over.

Yours truly,
David Ticktin

LETTERS

To the Editor,

Mike Hamilton is in the unenviable position of being a minority Mayor with what would appear to be a hostile Council. This was made painfully clear even as his tenure began, when, on January 10 and again on February 14, the new Mayor could not find a single member of Council to introduce certain measures, let alone getting a second for discussion on them. These were to advertise, interview and compare the qualifications for all candidates for the position of Municipal Attorney. In this way, the best qualified person could be hired for the position in a businesslike fashion. Sadly, the Council refused to even discuss this. I can only hope this power-play will not continue to set the tone for the coming months.

I agree with the Mayor's call to make the Council's deliberation process more open to public input and scrutiny. Ethical and honest elected officials should take no issue with this point, after all, it is embodied in the Open Public Meetings Act or "Sunshine Law." Beyond the letter of the law lies the spirit, which means, in this instance, that although all meetings are technically open to the public, attendance should not be cleverly discouraged or made inconvenient. Public input has frequently been unduly limited by the previous administration, or met with disdain or discourteous and disrespectful actions unworthy of elected officials. Members of Council have appeared at times to be excessively threatened by opposing views and have overreacted by closing the public portion prematurely, or by calling the State Police! There is no justification for such enmity at these meetings.

Members of the Council, when asked recently to interpret the results of the last election, seemed unable or unwilling to acknowledge that Mr. Hamilton's emphasis on open space and open governmental process were overwhelmingly well received. They seemed to refuse to accept that this mandate might have some meaning for themselves, citing at one point that hackneyed and empty Nixonian argument of the "silent majority" who support their views. There should be no place in an intelligent discussion for unsubstantiated claims such as this. The true majority spoke eloquently and decisively at the voting booth last November, as I have no doubt they will continue to do in upcoming elections.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hunt

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am running for a seat on the School Board in the April 18th election and would like to introduce myself to those of you who don't know me.

I have lived in Roosevelt for the past 23 years with my husband, Rod. Our nine-year-old daughter, Sarah, attends the Roosevelt Public School. I have worked as a software engineer in the telecommunications industry for 29 years, and I believe that I can apply experience gained there in setting and attaining goals and working within a budget to my duties as a school board member.

I was previously elected to the Board of Education in 1982-85 and, during that time, served as president of the Board. After that, I did volunteer tutoring in mathematics for Roosevelt students in grade school and high school for a number of years.

I was appointed by the current Board to fill an unexpired term in February and will serve in this post until the election in April. During these past two months, it has been my pleasure to work with Board members and school staff who are doing an outstanding job providing a high quality education for our students, making the school available as a resource for community activities, and also actively controlling expenses and seeking tax relief based on proper financial aid levels from the state.

I would like to continue to be part of this team as they work to evaluate our middle school and high school programs from both educational and fiscal viewpoints and enrich the educational experience of our children.

Thank you for your support.

Mary Tulloss

LETTERS

[Letter to a woman who complains that the town siren is out of tune]

Dear Ms. McNally:

Speaking for the committee on cacophony, we thank you for your letter and take your complaint as a measure of our success. For too many years sirens have been revered as seducers. We, however, are determined to ruin one reputation. We are proud to say that our siren can unknot the tightest lover's knot, drive a sonic splinter between the lid and the eye, and pry the ear apart till a single drop of blood unfurls from its lobe like a flag.

We have, in other words, tuned our banshee sharp in the most calculated way. If its edge gets under your nails, if its scream curls your ears and quarrels break out in your string quartet, if it drives your ferret to bite off your best friend's earlobe, and if it curdles the cream in your coffee, then we have succeeded. Frankly, we welcome a single pitch that can kill chickens at a 100 yards and set off a dissonance of dogs across the county, as if all its ambulances were coming for us at once. We intentionally requested that our siren turn deer suicidal, make willows weep and cause rifts in valleys.

You should know that a great clatter of public coin has been funneled to researchers at the School of Disembodied Sonics for what our specs modestly call the "most obnoxious sound known to the human ear." Again, we appreciate your letter's evidence that they have succeeded admirably. They do deserve credit, having overcome obstacles that would have silenced the ocean. For example, an early prototype consisting of two looped Hendricks' licks started a brush fire outside town. The rhino-in-heat loop was, unfortunately, answered from McGuire A.F.B. by cannon fire. And the sampling of a dentist's plaque-blaster promptly brought a patent-infringement suit by the Dental Association. Clearly, a balance was needed, a sound to rouse the comatose, but one that could not be mistaken for the Last Trump, bringing past residents filing down Eleanor Lane from their less-than-final resting place. Too embarrassing.

We wanted, instead, a simple sonic superlative. We requested a raw sound that could trash a meditation exercise by the most devout Buddhist; a sound to rattle rings off fingers all over town; a sound to compete with insomniac band saws and chain saws, or a marauding band of Skil saws. Taking full responsibility, we contracted for a sound, in short, that would not only peel paint but piss off the gods themselves. This required a noise capable of interrupting waterfall dreams and blunting the beaks of mockingbirds, even cutting through psychobabble and prayer. It would have to shame garbage trucks on their morning rounds, shut down mewling babies as abruptly as shutting off a combine, and stop the wompa-wompa-womp & whine of a helicopter short. We thought it would resemble the sound of an angry wasp mic'd at 300 amps, or 300 Harleys with Angels flying down 571, or one Jersey mosquito squealing her soprano sax in your ear just before sleep, as if it were his private club. And so it did in a wonderfully unnatural way.

We live for the attention of dissension, revel in acoustic anarchy, and believe you'll admit, madam, it's a relief from the orchestral lawn that clogs your sinuses at the auto dealers, the sonic Spam in the elevator, and the canned tunes in the grocery store dictating your consumer mood. Furthermore, it does not encourage whistling.

Mr. D. S. Herrstrom
03/16/00

The Roosevelt Arts Project

Presents

The Roosevelt String Band in Concert



David Brahinsky, vocals, guitar, bass; Ed Cedar, bass, guitar, mandolin, vocals; Paul Prestopino, guitar, banjo, mandolin, dobro, etc., Judith Trachtenberg, vocals; Howie Jacobson, fiddle, recorders, vocals, harmonica

Songs by: The Weavers, Iris Dement, Cheryl Wheeler, Gordon Bok, Woody Guthrie, Tom Paxton, Doc Watson, Kate Wolf, Eric Bogle, David Broza (Israeli Singer-Songwriter), Stan Rogers, Peter Rowan, Mary-Chapin Carpenter, Phil Ochs, Judy Collins, Bill Staines, Greg Brown and more.

DATES: Friday and Saturday, April 28 & 29, 2000

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: Roosevelt Municipal Building, Route 571 in downtown Roosevelt, NJ

Contribution: \$10 (\$5 students, seniors)

Phone: 609-443-1898/426-8867 for further information

How you can get a \$1,000 a year reduction in your property taxes!

Here's the situation:

The State Department of Education has classified Roosevelt as a *wealthy* "I" district. If we were classified as an "E/F" district, as we think we should be, we would get about \$300,000 more each year in state aid. That's an average of \$1,000 per household!

The Department of Education says there is no way to appeal this "I" classification. We say there *has* to be a way. We need a massive effort to get action - and we're willing to do the work of sending letters, faxes, and/or email to our elected federal and state representatives and members of the department of education, urging them to reevaluate our classification.

All we ask of you is to show your support by having each adult member of your household sign one of these "permission" slips.

You have my permission to sign my name to correspondence urging our legislators and the Department of Education to re-evaluate Roosevelt's classification for state aid.

Signature: _____

Name (print): _____

Address: _____

email (optional): _____

fax (optional): _____

Please return this form to: Roosevelt Borough Hall, Roosevelt Public School, Rossi's Deli, or any of the undersigned.

You have my permission to sign my name to correspondence urging our legislators and the Department of Education to re-evaluate Roosevelt's classification for state aid.

Signature: _____

Name (print): _____

Address: _____

email (optional): _____

fax (optional): _____

Please return this form to: Roosevelt Borough Hall, Roosevelt Public School, Rossi's Deli, or any of the undersigned.

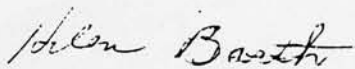
Roosevelt deserves its fair share of state aid for education! Roosevelt's citizens deserve property tax relief!

We feel that if we send a large number of letters on a regular basis we can get the attention of those people in state government who can effect a change. If you would like to help with this effort, or make a contribution to help defray expenses, please contact:



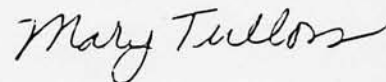
Dolores Chasan - 448-2062

P.O. Box 43



Helen Barth - 448- 1870

P. O. Box 114



Mary Tulloss - 448- 5096

P.O. Box 57

over

Sample
Copy

Dear

We need your help.

Roosevelt has been classified as an "I" district, which deprives this small community of some \$300,000 a year in state aid to education. Despite the fact that this classification of Roosevelt as a "wealthy district" seems clearly incorrect, we have been told that *there is no mechanism to appeal*.

In Roosevelt, we have an equalized general fund tax rate of \$2.94 per \$100, one of the highest in the state. Our average homeowner pays \$5,000-\$6,000 annually in property taxes, based on an average assessed value of less than \$130,000. Less than 25% of our \$2 million school budget is funded by state aid.

Compared to the 104 other "I" districts, Roosevelt is the 104th lowest in property wealth, 104th lowest in local share, and 102 in income.

We have been told by the Department of Education that Roosevelt resembles an "E/F" district, rather than an "I" district, but we have been unable to effect a change - or even to instigate a formal review of our situation.

Please help us appeal this classification and get the funding to which we are entitled.

Sincerely,

ove-R

LETTERS

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to introduce myself and my goal of traveling as a People to People Student Ambassador to France, Austria, Switzerland, and Italy this summer.

My name is Leah Howse, and I am a freshman at Hightstown High School in Hightstown. This fall I was interviewed and accepted to the Mercer County delegation for the People to People Student Ambassador Program, a 21-day program of exchange to France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy for meetings with teenagers and government officials and home visits with host families.

In case you haven't heard of People to People, here is some background information. People to People was started by President Eisenhower in 1956. Other programs like Sister Cities, Project HOPE, and Pen Pals were founded at the same time as People to People and have become independent programs since then.

Student Ambassadors are carefully interviewed before their acceptance, and we are expected to share out experiences with schools and civic clubs when we return. We can also earn high school and college credit because of the program's many educational activities. Personally, I would like to become a Student Ambassador to see areas of the world that I might not have gotten the opportunity to venture to. I enjoy meeting people and learning about how other people live their everyday life. I would love to leave a positive image of America's teenagers in Europe.

The tuition for the program is \$4,390, including meals, transportation, accommodations and educational activities.

I plan to ask twenty-five contributors to donate \$50 each to help me with my goal. Is it possible that you could assist me by making a donation? I plan to give a copy of my journal or give a speech for all of my contributors so that they can share my experiences.

My program tuition is due by May 1, 2000. If you have any questions, please call me at (609) 490-9885. Your help will go a long way in making my dream possible of visiting Europe as a representative of Mercer County and the state of New Jersey.

Sincerely,
Leah K. Howse

14 Tamara Drive

To The Editor:

To correct a misstatement by the Mayor in his article last month.

All Borough Council meetings are open to the public.

The agenda meeting, usually held on the first Monday of the month, is a workshop meeting to set the agenda for the regular meeting (2nd Monday). State law says, "The public is invited to attend the workshop meeting but may not participate." The only decisions made at an agenda meeting are what will be on the agenda. No formal action can be taken at an agenda meeting - by State law.

Committee meetings (3rd & 4th Mondays) are also open to the public and the public may participate in discussions.

The public is and has been encouraged to attend all Council meetings.

Councilwoman
Rose D. Murphy

LETTERS

To the Editor,

I am writing this letter to support the reelection of David Ticktin for the Roosevelt Board of Education. This year there are four candidates running for three positions and all of them deserve to be on the School Board. I am not endorsing one candidate over another, I am writing to let people know about some of the good qualities that David Ticktin has brought to the Board.

When David first came on the School Board several years ago, he asked many questions. One of the questions he asked led to some changes that affected every taxpayer in Roosevelt. David asked how the school board was investing its money. Did we have money in regular bank accounts or money markets? Are we allowed to invest in C.D.'s? If so, why don't we? David's question about interest on our bank accounts paid off for Roosevelt taxpayers because it led to higher returns on the money the school board holds in its bank accounts. David's attention to school finance opened my mind to the possibility that perhaps the borough could earn more interest on the money in its bank accounts as well (see my article *From the Mayor's Chair* in this issue). His focus on the necessary division between church and state as well as his libertarian viewpoints have been a refreshing perspective on the board.

I just thought that the readers should know about the good work that David has done on the school board and I hope that people will vote for him during the school board elections on April 18.

Sincerely,

Mike Hamilton

TOWN WIDE YARD SALE

MAY 6 AND 7

TO GET YOUR TABLE
ON THE MAP, CALL
JO-ANNE PARKER AT
448-5619

PLANT SALE

MAY 6

IN FRONT OF POST OFFICE

BIG
GARBAGE
DAY
PICK-UP

MAY 8TH

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

by Mary Tulloss

FOND FAREWELL TO:

Saul Ernstein of Pine Drive died in February at the age of 71. Saul lived in Roosevelt for 43 years and was the son-in-law of original Jersey Homesteaders Louis and Rose Lachman. For several years Saul has given a science award at the Roosevelt School graduation in memory of his wife, Edith.

George Katz of Farm Lane died in February at the age of 56. George lived in Roosevelt for 28 years and was a past president of the Roosevelt School Board, a member of the board of directors and former manager of the Millstone-Roosevelt Little League, and a manager with the East Windsor Police Athletic League and the Roosevelt School basketball and soccer leagues. He was a member and past president of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt.

FROM CAMPUS:

Alemayehu Kassahun, son of Ann and Bahiru Kassahun of Lake Drive, is on the Dean's List for the fall semester at the University of Arizona. Alemayehu is in the College of Business and Economics.

FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

Freshman Leah Howse has been selected to be a People to People Student Ambassador to France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy this summer. She will be part of the Mercer County delegation participating in the People to People program which was started by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956. (see Letter on page 15)

Mollie Petrilla and Hannah Stinson were in the pit band of the HHS performance of *Bye, Bye Birdie* on March 10-12. Liz Carroll was the Usher Captain; Vicky Taylor and Sarah Skillman were part of the stage crew.

FROM KREPS SCHOOL:

Eighth grader Lindsay Possiel is "Student of the Month" for the Gold Team.

Molly Marko and Danielle Petrics were in the February 3-5th production of *Oliver*.

Lian Garton won "Best in School" for the "Math Counts" competition sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

FROM ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL:

The Annual Health Fair took place on March 15th. The theme for the evening was Stress Reduction and there were demonstrations of yoga, hypnotism, visualization and massage. Bone density measurements were also available.

MOVING IN:

The Abankwa's moved into the Monroe house (corner of Rochdale and Homestead Lane) in March. The family members are Palmers (who is the newest member of the first aid squad), Susan, Brenda (a sophomore at Mercer County Community College), Monalisa (a senior at Hightstown High School), Isaac (a 7th grader at the Kreps School) and Curtis (a 3rd grader at RPS).

Mr. and Mrs. Hin Ling Wong, parents of Wally Wong, moved from Queens, New York City to Lake Drive in mid-October.

HONORS AND PUBLICATIONS:

On Saturday, March 18, 2000, Arthur Shapiro was one of three recipients of the Rutgers Graduate School of Education Distinguished Service Award. Art is being honored for his many contributions to Disability Awareness, both in his current position at Kean University, as well as through his award winning book, *Everybody Belongs- Changing Negative Attitudes Toward Classmates with Disabilities*. The book received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award from Choice Magazine, which reviews and recommends books for libraries. The second edition of this book is being released as a tradeback, and will be available locally as well as through Amazon.com. Art was recently promoted to Full Professor, and has also attained the title of "Professionally Recognized Special Educator" from the Council For Exceptional Children.

Erik Shapiro, former Roosevelt resident, currently residing in Los Angeles, California was recently featured in an article in *The Forward*, (February 18, 2000) Erik, who is a sitcom writer, was interviewed along with several other young, observant television writers on how they are influencing and being influenced by Hollywood. Erik, who has written for "Cosby" and "It's like.You Know", is currently working on an animated series for Fox Family which is in pre-production. ■

Items for this column can be submitted to Mary Tulloss by phone 448-5096, mail P.O. Box 57, or email mtulloss@njcc.com.

ROOSEVELT WEATHER

Moon Talk

by Ron Filepp

After a windy day, the night of March 13 was calm in Roosevelt. The sky featured a solid layer of cirrostratus clouds. A half moon shone through the clouds. Around the moon was a large halo. In folklore, a halo around the moon is an indicator of the weather to come.

A ring around the sun or moon means that it will rain real soon.

When around the moon there be a bruh (halo), The weather will be cold and rough.

The moon with a circle brings water in her back.

If the moon shows a silver shield,
Be not afraid to reap your field;
But if she rises haloed round,
Soon we'll tread on deluged ground.

Double circles around the moon portray very severe weather.

When the wheel is far, the storm is n'ar;
When the wheel is near, the storm is far.

This last proverb perhaps relates to the size of the halo around the moon. A small halo indicates a storm will arrive soon. A large halo indicates a later arrival. The appearance of the moon has long been used as a forecasting tool. Some other weather proverbs related to the moon include:

In the waning of the moon, cloudy morn, fair afternoon.

When the moon lies on her back,
Then the sou'west wind will crack,
When she rises up and nods,
Chill nor'easters dry the sods.

Pale moon rains,
Red moon blows;
White moon neither rains or blows.

The moon her face be red,
Of water she speaks.

Continued on Page 19

January 18 - February 15, 2000

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	41.0	29.0	35.0	0.15
16	56.0	26.0	41.0	0.00
17	37.0	28.0	32.5	0.00
18	37.0	25.0	31.0	0.00
19	37.0	33.0	35.0	1.45
20	40.5	31.5	36.0	0.00
21	43.0	27.0	35.0	0.00
22	50.5	27.0	38.8	0.00
23	58.0	29.0	43.5	0.00
24	66.0	40.0	53.0	0.00
25	58.0	44.0	51.0	0.00
26	49.5	40.0	44.8	0.13
27	67.0	46.0	56.5	0.00
28	55.0	44.0	49.5	0.14
29	49.0	33.0	41.0	0.00
1	50.0	30.0	40.0	0.00
2	48.0	-	48.0	0.00
3	47.0	35.0	41.0	0.00
4	47.5	29.0	38.3	0.00
5	48.0	36.0	42.0	0.00
6	48.0	32.5	40.3	0.00
7	63.0	30.0	46.5	0.00
8	74.0	45.0	59.5	0.00
9	73.0	44.0	58.5	0.00
10	60.0	52.0	56.0	0.00
11	45.0	42.0	43.5	0.00
12	54.0	38.0	46.0	1.00
13	49.5	29.0	39.3	0.03
14	50.0	35.0	42.5	0.00
15	68.0	37.0	52.5	0.00

Total Precipitation 2.55

New Jersey Weather Event

The Great East weekend storm took place on April 14 and 15, 1854. Eighteen vessels were wrecked between Sandy Hook and Cape May. The storm dropped 24 inches of snow in Flemington.

Weather Word

Zero-zero is a condition of zero visibility in vertical and horizontal directions.

ROOSEVELT WEATHER ALMANAC

Continued from 18

Nightly walks starting in mid-autumn stirred my contemplation of the moon. There are many variations of moonlight. Here on Earth the quality of moonlight is effected not only by the season, clouds and humidity but also by the waxing and waning of the moon. In the Assunpink, removed by some degree from suburban lighting (yet not so far removed as to be in a natural night light setting, an unfortunate circumstance that becomes more apparent each night) the intensity of moonlight is significantly more apparent than in Roosevelt backyards.

The light of a moon just a few days old may be enough to give you a shadow. A bright full moon just above the horizon can cause discomfort for a light-sensitive migraine sufferer walking toward its glow.

So, what has this to do with weather? Not much. However, not much in this case may be something. The effect of the direct light of the sun on our weather is great and well established. It is the sun's reflected light that the

moon delivers to us. There is evidence that a temperature increase of 0.02 degrees in the Earth's lower atmosphere occurs during the full moon. In addition, statistical analysis indicates that the phase of the moon is slightly correlated to the number of thunderstorms, air pressure changes and cloudiness in the Earth's atmosphere.

Science tells us that a halo around the moon is formed by light reflected off ice crystals that make up cirrus clouds. As weather instruments become more sensitive and further data is collected, the mystery of the effect of the moon on our weather will one day be dispelled with similar scientific certainty.

There is a mystery that will remain – the tenuous nature of a shadow cast by the dim light of a crescent moon. It is provocative to the primal parts of a person's mind and spirit. ■

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR *Continued from 7*

was no change in the law, I was told that the borough could get more interest on its accounts. Unhappily, it took yet another year, until after I took office for these changes to be made. Unfortunately, Roosevelt taxpayers lost thousands of dollars over the years because of the borough's failure to get the maximum interest on our money. Mysteriously, the Council knowingly accepted either no interest or less than 3% interest as a return on borough accounts which frequently exceeded over one million dollars.

Borough ordinance #165 also known as "The Administrative Code of the Borough of Roosevelt" states that The

Mayor shall:

"Annually report to the Council and the public on the work of the previous year and the conditions and requirements of the municipal government and, from time to time recommend to the Council such measures as he or she may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the Borough..."

I will continue to thoroughly examine the expenditure of our tax dollars and pay close attention to the management of the accounts of our borough. Over the next few months I will continue to report to the Council and the public on the "conditions and requirements" of our municipal gov-

**Don't Forget
to VOTE**

**School Board
Election on**

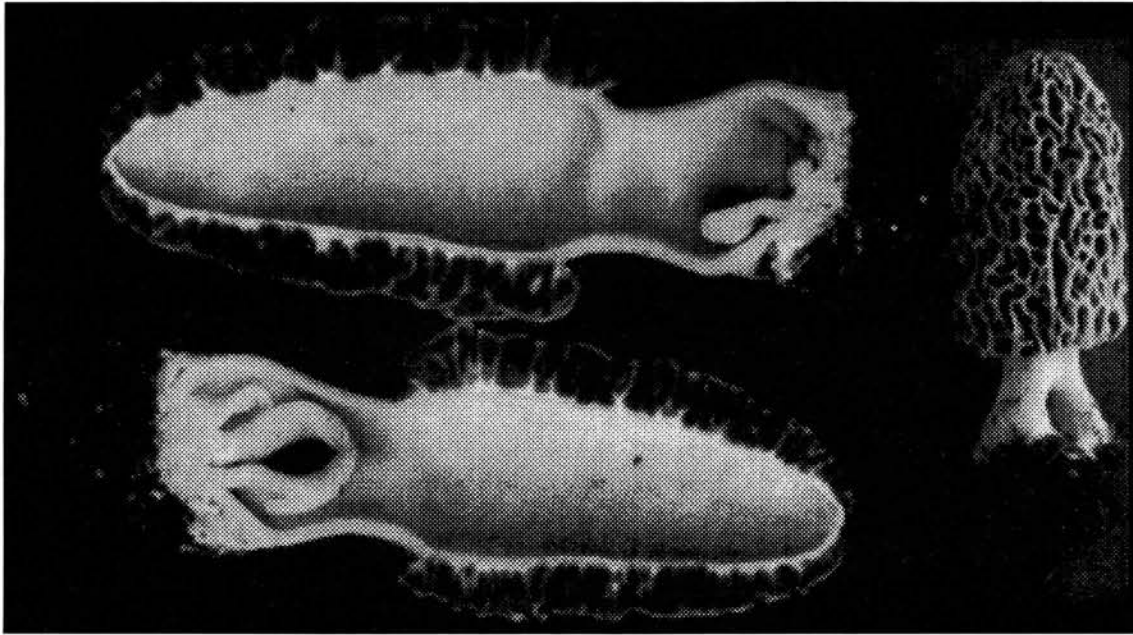
April 18 at the

Borough Hall

from

2:30 to 9:00 PM

The Esculent Morel - a Marvelous Morsel



by Rod Tulloss

The morel is one of the most delicious mushrooms by worldwide consensus. While many of the best mushrooms owe, shall we say, a little something of their reputation to garlic and olive oil, the delicately flavored, freshly picked morel can stand on its own in a cream sauce over toast, sautéed with a little vegetable or chicken bouillon, or in an omelet or an egg custard.

Dried, its flavor is concentrated so that, after rehydrating in warm water, the liquid should not be discarded, but used as a rich stock in a sauce to be served with the mushroom, perhaps over pieces of melba toast, scrambled eggs, a dish of diverse grains or meat.

The true edible morel is pitted on the outside of its top like a sponge or a honeycomb and is completely hollow inside. See the picture of *Morchella esculenta* (the Yellow Morel) with this article.

20 April 2000 • Bulletin

The sometimes poisonous false morel is convoluted and folded outside and in, like a brain. False morels contain a chemical that is a component of liquid rocket fuel. Because this chemical is volatile and will come off in the steam from boiling water, people have been poisoned just by taking too big a sniff from a pot of false morels.

Look at the tiny packets of dried morels in the grocery stores. Pricey, no? Well, you might be lucky to find some of this delicacy on your own and not far from home at that. (This article does not provide sufficient information to identify morels with complete confidence. You should confirm your find with an experienced mushroomer, and you should ask about the identifying marks that she or he is using in the identification. I'll volunteer.)

For years, the ecology of morels has been something of a mystery. One

seasoned morel hunter will claim that nothing is better than an old apple orchard for morel hunting. Others claim that conifer forests on sandy soil or fine glacial dust is their favorite hunting ground or that the best hunting is on the sandy islands in the Mississippi River or the West Virginia mountains or that there is nothing like the year after a forest fire in the Sierra Nevada or....

It has not yet been published, but scientists have recently demonstrated that morels are symbiotic with apple and other trees. This was quite a surprise to experts in the field. Apparently, the fungus normally lives underground without producing mushrooms – as fine filaments and nodules in the soil connected to a sheath they build around tree root hairs. The mushrooms tend to appear only when the trees are old or damaged. Possibly, the weakening of their carbohydrate source is detected;

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NATURAL ROOSEVELT

Continued from Page 20

and, this causes the morel to fruit and distribute spores in hopes of growing with another host if the present one should die. The morels are not a parasite, but are exchanging water, small carbon-based molecules, and mineral nutrients for carbohydrates produced by photosynthesis in the trees.

Some find a morel or two a year; others raise the ire and envy of their acquaintances by saying, "Oh, I stopped counting at around 3,799." Some folks can't even see the critters. They look just like the dead leaves among which they grow. Others tell fabulous tales of their hunting prowess. My favorite is the explanation of a prizewinning morel hunter who said that he would drive out into the Michigan forest in an empty pickup with a chain saw in the open bed of the truck and paper bags for morels hidden under the seat. Upon arriving at his favorite site, he would take out the chain saw and start it. This, he stone-faced it, makes the morels careless because they think he's only looking for firewood. Quickly taking advantage of his cover, the hunter then "grabs the leader, and the rest become confused and are easy pickings."

Do morels grow in town? Yes, they've been reported from a few yards and gardens. (The lucky property owners are hereby given protective anonymity.)

When do they appear? There are several different species, and each has its own rather limited period of fruiting. The earliest have usually appeared in mid-April, but with global warming (believe it!) they will probably move up to early April or the end of March. The latest are usually finished before June. One of the folk sayings that seems to work for some species of morel is to look for them "when oak leaves are the size of a mouse's ear."

What if you have a hard time seeing them? I'm one of the folks that is cursed with a near inability to see morels from a standing position. I find that going into a likely area and quietly sitting on the ground may not catch a careless pack of morels off-guard, but it does allow your mind to do whatever it does when you stare at a magic picture - one of those masses of dots - and suddenly see a horse in the midst of them. At least I find my handful and can come back to lunch and see the full baskets of my friends who went into the self same woods.

IMPORTANT IN CLOSING:

As far as eating any wild mushroom for the first time, eat only a little bit. The mushroom may be edible, but you might be allergic. No matter how many times you've eaten morels, don't overdo it. Gorging on morels can make you sick, and an unrelenting diet of morels day after day is as bad as an unrelenting diet of a lot of other things. Morels dry very well on a vegetable dehydrator. Once cooked, they can be frozen separately or in a clear broth and reheated for use in another meal. If you want to buy a mushroom field guide, ask me for suggestions if you wish; but if you're in a store and can't resist, be sure that you're NOT buying a European book in translation. The mushrooms on the two continents are DIFFERENT, and similarities between edible European mushrooms and poisonous American ones do occur. And...don't guess at identifications: There are old mushroomers and bold mushroomers, but no old, bold mushroomers. ■

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BREAKING BREAD

Coming:

A PTA Cook Book!

By Bess Tremper

We have just learned that the PTA is planning to put out a cook book to raise money for their organization. It will be composed of recipes submitted by Roosevelt residents. I recalled that the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin had created one in 1980 and I was able to get a much used and tattered copy from one of its editors, Hortense Socholitzky.



It had been published by an editorial committee consisting of Helen Barth, Lynn Frank, Elly Shapiro and Hortense Socholitzky, apparently under the supervision of Beth Johnson who was the Food Editor of the paper at that time.

The book, which was nicely published with charming illustrations by Stefan Martin, Jan Terry and Peter Vince, was divided into seven categories with a total of 112 recipes: appetizers, soups, salads, bread and crackers, vegetables, main dishes and desserts. I have listed them in the order that they were in the book. Main dishes and desserts understandably accounted for the largest number of recipes: 27 main dishes and 38 desserts. In addition, I must point out, that while many of the contributors had submitted at least two recipes, Beth Johnson, who I have been repeatedly told, is a great cook, was responsible for 22!

In looking through the book to find out if twenty years has shown any great changes in cooking trends, the most notable, of course, were the use of butter as opposed to oil and also occasional use of heavy sweet cream. But I was most impressed by the many different cuisines presented and the apparent skill and interest in cooking that all these recipes represented. Obviously, there was no shortage of good eating in Roosevelt in 1980!

I chose the following recipe by Hortense Socholitzky fairly randomly, but also with an eye to presenting one that is more representative of 1980 than 2000. She tells me that someone had disparagingly called it her Fancy version of pork and beans. But as an occasional fling, it sounds good!

I understand the book had been well received, having sold out all copies and had raised some money for the paper. Please understand that this is not intended as competition, but rather as an inspiration to maintain our great tradition! ■

HAM AND KIDNEY BEAN CASSEROLE

2 C. cooked ham, diced
2 cans kidney beans (drain liquid from 1)
1 med. onion, chopped
1 med. green pepper, chopped
2 tbs. tomato paste
1/2 C. red wine (preferably Port)
4 strips bacon

2 tbs. butter or margarine

Serves 4-6

Lightly saute onion and green pepper in butter. Place in casserole. Add ham, beans, tomato paste and wine. Mix well. Place bacon strips on top. Bake uncovered in 350 degree oven about 45 minutes.

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

1999 - 2000 Season

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 1999-2000 calendar of events, featuring a wonderfully varied array of readings and performances, a concert of computer music, an exhibit of the works of emerging artists and the return of your favorite performers and poets.

All events take place at the Borough Hall and will begin at 8:00 p.m., except for the Storytelling, which begins at 7:30 p.m.. At most events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$6.00, only \$4.00 for students and seniors. This year, we will ask \$10.00/ \$5.00 for admission to the Roosevelt String Band concert. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the *Bulletin* for additional details.

Friday & Saturday April 28 & 29
Roosevelt String Band

Returning for the thirteenth year, the band, featuring Paul Prestopino, David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Judy Trachtenberg and Howie Jacobson, will play and sing old favorites and introduce you to its new musical discoveries.

Friday, Saturday & Sunday May 19, 20 & 21
Light as a Feather

Works by six Roosevelt artists will be on exhibit, each inspired by a single feather from birds as diverse as the Peking Duck and a Raven living at the Tower of London. Opening reception on Friday evening, 6-8:00 p.m. with gallery hours Saturday and Sunday.

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

The work of the Roosevelt Arts Project is made possible entirely by your support. Donations given to the Roosevelt Arts Project, other than for admission to an event, are tax-deductible. We appreciate your continuing support of our efforts to bring the highest quality art and performances to Roosevelt. ■

MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT



The Roosevelt Arts Project proudly offers for sale our beautiful three-panel reproduction of the Ben Shahn mural from our school. The postcards are available for \$2.00 each and a small number of flat, unfolded copies, suitable for framing, are available for \$10.00 each. All proceeds go to the Roosevelt Arts Project to cover the cost of these cards, enable us to produce future postcards in our Roosevelt arts series and to support RAP exhibits and events. Cards are available at the Borough Hall or by calling Robin Middleman at 426-4583, Deborah Metzger at 443-3759 or Judith Trachtenberg at 426-8867. The Roosevelt Arts Project is a tax exempt cultural organization funded exclusively by admissions and donations. RAP appreciates your support. ■

REVIEW

Piano Concert

by Ed Cedar

It is always an extreme pleasure to hear and see Alan Mallach perform. The diversity and scope of his repertoire is vast and uniquely interesting. In the recent past we have heard him perform the works of Beethoven, Bach, Clara Schumann and Chopin. I have recorded Alan as accompanist for an evening of Paul Robeson's music. These concerts were more traditional in their overall sound and context.

However, I was in further awe of Alan's amazing mastery and skills as he presented his performance on February 5th at the Borough Hall. It was a night of mostly the transitional music into the 20th century.

Many of the 20th century composers are almost 100 years old, yet I still feel it may take traditional listeners quite a while longer 'till they are willing to fully open up to the beauty and complexities found in such compositions.

In every period of music, the transitional composers ran into skepticism and dilemmas. In the early 1500's before the Council of Trent, a composer may have been beheaded for using the augmented 4th interval in compositions. It was considered the "diablo de musica", the devil of music. When Beethoven wrote his 7th symphony critics were claiming that he was now ripe for the madhouse. The opening night of Stravinsky's the Rite of Spring in Paris, an angry audience ripped up seats and caused a radical demonstration starting within the first minutes of the performance.

I must say we in Roosevelt, on

February 5th, in the warmth and coziness of the Borough Hall, stayed quite a bit more civil. On a more personal note, I was able to sit back (even though feeling a bit edgy at times) and allow myself to be enveloped by the dynamic feelings being so elegantly brought out by the music.

Alan started the opening half with the transitional music of a composer that I was not familiar with, the Sonata in F# minor, Opus 61, Elegie Harmonique by Jan Ladislav Dussek.

Dussek, a contemporary of Beethoven composed this leading edge piece in 1807, the same time period of Beethoven's 5th Symphony. Alan's performance of this composition with its huge swings of dynamic range and uncertainty of major versus minor feel, tempo, texture and emotional changes truly made the transition of the classical into the early Romantic period quite obvious. This piece set the mood for the remaining music to come.

The Sonata in A Major by Franz Schubert (1828) followed next. It defined the remaining elements of melody (more expressive and more elaborate in content) and the use of higher tension, increased chromaticism and less traditionally functional harmonies. At this point Mallach fully transported his audience through the doorway of time into the romantic period.

The form of the Schubert contained sections that were so well meshed that at times it was difficult as a listener to establish if you indeed had entered the Andantino or still remained in the opening Allegro.

After a cordial intermission, Alan returned to the stage. Then he proceeded to give a brief but informative lecture as a prelude to the Sonata #1, Opus 1 of Alban Berg which we were about to experience. I quote Alan here, "You can just about see the whole traditional harmony that had taken hundreds of years to be developed in Western Music, falling to the ground as this piece goes on!",

Having heard Alban Berg's later pieces, especially the violin and string compositions of the late 1930's, I was well prepared for the array of cascading dissonances, secundal and quartal harmonies. Much to my surprise I was enveloped in the discovery of fullness of the sheer passion and drive of the highly ambivalent nature of the composition. On a more personal note, Alan's own belief and obvious deep feelings for this piece brought a new heightened vision and meaning to what I could accept and understand as beauty in sound although dissonant in feel.

For the final number, Alan gave the audience a graphic view into its content by providing a written description of the music to be heard. Mr. Mallach played seven selected preludes from Debussy's *Les Sons et Les Parfumes Trent dans l'air du soir* (Sounds and scents swirl around in the evening air). The piece was inspired by Baudelaire's famous poem "Harmonie du soir."

It was particularly vivid to me, capturing the ethnic sound and sights of an American minstrel show or carnival. The music wove in and out of conventional and new century harmony and of course included a fine dose of Debussy's use of whole tone

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An Evening of Creative Technology
COMPUTERS TAKE OVER!!

by Judith McNally

“On the bleeding edge,” said Brad Garton, kicking off a wild night of computer music, the Roosevelt Arts Project event for the month of March.

We heard sounds pulled from the far reaches of the universe. Minds left their usual habitat and soared elsewhere, perhaps never to return (and would they be missed?). One wonders who hears these sounds in the first place, who transmits them and who receives them. Saturday, March 4 at the Roosevelt Borough Hall, there was no need to ponder these questions further. In the capable hands of Brad Garton's laptop, we all ventured beyond the daily realms of our eardrums. We traveled, en masse, like drumsticks tap, tap, tapping on the ceiling of a membrane, and listened, suspended in space, in time, as though reindeer on rooftops were an every day matter and now we were in another realm, giving and taking - computers and humans - matter of a different sort.

We played in our ears, we played as a sound flicked by, and we lolled in the sweet surf of a space perhaps no one has ever been to. Sound became space, time became sound, and sixth dimension of time-sound was created within all of us. We burst forth with joy filling our beings, soothed, excited, awakened, in the hammock of a time when the jellyfish wailed and the giant squid squirted soundballs in our eyes, and we loved it!

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scales and corresponding harmonies, thus giving a new alternative meaning to American Folk or Bluegrass. The last selection was Des Pas Sur la Neigh (Footsteps in the snow).

Alan ended by coming back and playing a lyrically beautiful composition by Rachmaninoff. Alan neglected to play or tell the audience what he explained to me when I was setting up the recording equipment for the evening. This piece went through its own transitional state from that of a more traditional sounding, block style simple homophonic texture to a later version abounding with a more flowing, lyrical feel and complex character.

On a final note, I feel as an open minded listener that Alan's musical evening this year elevated me to a new level of musical consciousness.

One night on the way home from playing in a pit, the music of Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Joseph And The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (although it is quite enjoyable music), I distinctly remember needing so much more. I reached into my glove compartment, pulled out Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring", loaded into the CD player, pumped up the volume and listened to it with gusto like I never did before!

Thanks Alan! ■

How, we said, are we ever going to go back to the everyday sounds of coffee drips, laundry cycles and passing motorcars? And the answer was, we'll never have to, because now we have new sounds in our beings, our blood has heard the call of the untamed, and a melody line of crescents and stars shall be with us forever. There is, thank goodness, no turning back.

Thank you, Brad Garton (Director of Columbia University's Computer Music Center), and company: Thanassis Rikakis, Chris Baily, Malcom Goodman, Luke Dubois and acclaimed Swiss violinist Maja Cerar. Ms. Cerar had memorized not only her entire violin part, but the computer music as well. Said composer Doug Geers, "She knows this piece better than I do," and he knelt to kiss her hand in thanks, mid applause.

The RAP evening even featured special guest computer musician Wesley John-Alder, who presented a wonderfully mature and rhythmic piece. John-Alder, a Roosevelt resident, is 14. Garton said, "We're ready to admit him to graduate school!"

Closing the performance was the accomplished mandolin player Terry Pender, also CDC studio director. His piece was, he told us, "An attempt to change the way I listen to the music I heard as a child - in this case, a tune that my grandfather played on harmonica."

And to think that, once upon a time, Brad Garton set out to be a pharmacist. ■

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1999 - 2000

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As you can see, contributions have slowed down. We appeal to those who have not yet contributed. We REALLY need everyone who can possibly help. We're counting on you, as you're counting on us!

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 is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are needed to keep our publication going.

PLEASE NOTE:

Due to postal regulations we can only ask for "donations" rather than "subscriptions" from out-of-towners who wish to receive the *BULLETIN*. We will be pleased to continue sending them the *BULLETIN* when we receive their contributions which, of course, can be for the same amount (or more) as in the past.

THE BULLETIN is pleased to accept articles having to do in any way with the Borough of Roosevelt, including literary works by local residents and others with ties to the community. However, due to the fact that this is a non-profit publication that is dependent upon public contributions, articles designed to promote the sale of products or services for profit cannot be accepted.

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APRIL

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APRIL

3	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
4	Tues.	1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting and Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall
6	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting, RPS, President JoAnne Parker, 448-5619
9	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Clean Communities Spring Clean-up, Post Office, Clean Communities Coordinator Dianna Moore, 448-5745
10	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
12	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	RECYCLING Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Gail Hunton, 426-4338
13	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS
17	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
		7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Michael Tickin, 448-0363
18	Tues.	2:30-9 p.m.	School Board Elections, Borough Hall
19	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 448-5096
20	Thurs.		RPS CLOSED -

SPRING VACATION

23	Sun.		Easter
24	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
26	Wed.		RECYCLING
27	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS
28	Fri.	8:00 p.m.	RAP Program - Roosevelt String Band, Borough Hall, Judith Tractenberg, 426-8867
29	Sat.	8:00 p.m.	RAP Program Roosevelt String Band, Borough Hall, Judith Tractenberg, 426-8867

MAY

1	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
6	Sat.	2-3 p.m.	Rabies Clinic, Borough Hall rear garage
8	Mon.		Large Bulk Pick-up

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