

ROOSEVELT BOROUGH
BULLETIN

Volume ²³~~24~~ Number 3

December 1999

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Hamilton Wins Decisive Victory in Mayoral Race, Stiles and Vasseur Re-elected

by Michael Ticktin

On November 2, Roosevelt voters, by a margin of nearly two to one, elected Democrat Michael Hamilton as Mayor over Republican Peter Warren and incumbent Mayor Lee Allen, who had been defeated by Mr. Hamilton in the June primary but was running as a write-in candidate. Of 383 votes cast, Mr. Hamilton received 246, Mr. Allen, 107 and Mr. Warren, 30.

In the race for the two Council seats, the incumbents, Democrat Michael Stiles and Republican George Vasseur, were re-elected with 169 votes and 168 votes respectively. Write-in candidate Neil Marko, who had declared himself to be a supporter of Mr. Hamilton, received 162 votes.

While the vote for two seats on the Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders reflected the usual Democratic preponderance of better than two to one - though the Republicans, as usual, won county-wide - there was an unusual development in the race for the two Assembly seats in that the winners in Roosevelt were Democrat Edward Werner and Republican incumbent Joseph Malone who, with 178 votes and 164 votes respectively, came out ahead of Democrat Edward Choquette (156), Republican incumbent Melvin Cottrell (136), and Conservatives Kal Madgyesy (7) and Fred Rasiewicz (6). Assemblyman Malone has publicly stated his intention to bring about a change in the State school aid formula that

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Salary Ordinance Introduced

by Herb Johnson

At its November 8 meeting, the Borough Council unanimously approved the introduction of the new salary ordinance and the passage of two resolutions. Councilman Harry Parker introduced the salary ordinance for the year 2000, which will increase the salaries of all but a few positions by 2.5 percent. A public hearing and consideration for final approval is scheduled for the next regular meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, December 13. A copy of the proposed ordinance with the exact amounts of the salaries is to be available in the Borough Hall by December 1 and at the public hearing.

Mr. Parker also offered a resolution to spend up to \$2,500 to purchase 2 computer systems for the office from

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

A REMINDER!

As always, there will be no January issue, but beginning in February, there will be issues every month right through July, 2000, which will conclude our 1999-2000 publishing year.

We are happy to report that since the November issue, 35 more contributions have been received for which we are very grateful. But, there is room on the Contributions page for more names to which we look forward eagerly! We need you!

Along with your dollars, you are letting us know that we seem to be doing the right thing. We will continue to do our best to make the Bulletin worthy of your support. Let us hear from you.

Contributions received after November 16 will appear in the February issue.

CHRISTMAS TREE COLLECTION

Christmas Trees will be collected for disposal on Wednesday, January 5 and 12. Please do not cover them or place them in a plastic bag or container. Do place them at the curb on Tuesday evening for the Wednesday pick up.

SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD NEEDED

There is a regular position for a school crossing guard open. The crossing guard would hold the position located at Pine and School Lane. The hours are 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. and 2:45 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. On half school days, the hours are 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 1:00 p.m. The salary for the remainder of this year is \$10.00 per hour.

In addition, substitutes are also needed. Please call the Borough Hall office at 448-0539 if you have any questions, or you may come into the office to apply.

REGISTER YOUR DOGS

JANUARY is the month to REGISTER OR RE-REGISTER YOUR DOGS. Licenses are to be obtained at the Borough Hall office. In order to obtain a license, the rabies vaccine must be good for the entire year. A rabies certificate and altering certificate are to be kept on file at the Borough office. All dogs at least 7 months of age or any dog owned or in your care for 10 days or more must be licensed in Roosevelt.

FEES: ALTERED: \$8.20
OTHERS: \$11.20

SUMMONS for non-licensing for the 1999 calendar year will be issued in December. Notices of violation were mailed out and a compliance deadline of November 30, 1999 was given.

COMPLAINTS RE: WATER & SEWER UTILITIES

Please direct any complaints, requests and inquires regarding the water and sewer utilities to Applied Wastewater Management, Inc. The telephone number to call is 1-800-334-1230. You may also write to AWM at the following address: P.O.Box 1079, Belle Mead, NJ 08502. The above information is in compliance with the contract between the Borough and AWM as per Article II - A., 7. & 8. ■

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

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FOR THE RECORD

A view from a Councilman's chair

by Paul Hoogsteden

Over the course of the past couple of years, the local elections and various movements in town have shed a light on the governing body that is in dire need of reexamination. As a member of this group, I wish to provide my neighbors with an accurate account of the work that has been performed and is currently under way by your body of elected representatives. Therefore, I have decided to write a recurring feature in our *Bulletin* to address the issues before our town that includes the facts as well as my analysis and views on such matters.

In this inaugural column, I wish to reintroduce myself to my neighbors. Presently, I work as a Tax Manager at the Liposome Co., Inc. where I handle International, Federal, State and Local tax matters. Since 1991, my wife Irza and I have lived on Lake Drive. During our years in town, we have been blessed with our daughter, Taylor and our second child who is due early next year. We were drawn to Roosevelt by the close proximity to family, the rural beauty of the town and the affordability of housing. Since then, we have come to truly appreciate our neighbors, an involved community and the uniqueness of Roosevelt.

In 1995, I sought and won my first term as Councilman and I was reelected at your grace in 1998. My initial desire to serve on the Council was created by the continually escalating costs of living in our town and some problems that I had personally with our sewer system. Currently, the impetus behind my serving on Council is fueled by the need for our community to retain our character

while providing for the needs of all of our residents.

During the course of my tenure on Council, I have always followed a course of action that I believed to be in the best interests of the future of our town and community. I have voted against the evaluation of locating a radioactive waste facility in our community. I fought against a proposal to cite a tree stump and tire recycling facility in town. I successfully worked for the passage of an ordinance that required payment of water and sewer hook-up fees for each new house built in town. I voted in favor of PCD II (the residential and adult housing overlays) as well as an increase in the number of single family homes allowed on the Notterman track (PCD I). I voted in favor of the landscape ordinance. I supported a stable tax rate and the reduction of water and sewer fees by providing budgets that were not subject to election year gimmicks. Finally, I have always voted in favor of improving our streets, roads and infrastructure through the utilization of grants.

The examples listed above are a snapshot of the positions that I have taken with respect to the major issues that have been placed before me. Of course, I have worked closely with my fellow Council members, various board members, County officials, our employees and professionals as well as my neighbors along the way. Again, I will utilize this column to provide insight into the making of the above decisions and future decisions.

As a public official, I fully understand

that criticism is inherent in holding office, but I desire that such criticism be based upon facts and actions; not innuendo and rumor. Hopefully, this column will provide all of us the opportunity to become better educated with respect to the difficult decisions our community faces. I look forward to speaking with you and gathering your input on the topics that you wish to be discussed in this forum. Almost every Monday night, I can be found at the Borough Hall at 7:30 p.m. or you can call me at 448-7358. ■

RECYCLING DATES

DECEMBER 8
DECEMBER 22
JANUARY 5
JANUARY 19
FEBRUARY 2

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Salary Ordinance Introduced

Continued from Page 1

Littlewood Co., using part of the \$5,000 grant Comcast gave the Borough. Three companies submitted prices for the computers.

Councilman John Towle, Finance Committee Chair, offered the other resolution to pay the bills of the past month.

The two motions were presented by Councilwoman Rose Murphy to approve the use of the Borough Hall for the Roosevelt Nursery school events on November 7 and December 23, and to approve of the Borough's cooperative purchasing of natural gas with the Middlesex County Educational Commission. Mrs. Murphy said the Borough had saved \$500 this year with that plan.

Councilman Paul Hoogsteden announced that a "Transportation 2000 Summit Meeting" for Western Monmouth County would take place on Monday, November 22 from 9 to 11 a.m. at CentraState Medical Center in Freehold. Henry Nicholson, Monmouth County Transportation Director was to discuss plans to improve transportation services. Mr. Hoogsteden was unable to get any member of the Borough Council to attend and he asked Herb Johnson if he would. Mr. Johnson agreed to attend and give a report to the Mayor and Council.

Mrs. Murphy reported that the Monmouth County Sheriff billed the Borough \$1,959 for the 911 communication service for the year 2000, a \$49 increase.

Mr. Vasseur reported that Allen's Lawn and Tree Service was hired to remove the six foot tall arbor vitae bush (not in compliance with the "sight-triangle" ordinance) at the

intersection of Homestead Lane and North Valley Road. Three trees on Pine Drive were also to be removed.

Under "Good and Welfare," Vincent Vignuolo asked the Council to pass an ordinance to protect Roosevelt's school children and others in the school or public buildings. Mr. Vignuolo and other fire fighters responded to a 911 call only to find that the principal had told the children, at about noon on November 2, to return to the evacuated building without the fire fighters having had the chance to examine the area and declare the building safe. Mrs. Murphy explained that an ordinance could be passed next year to clarify the requirements, but the Board of Education could take action promptly to deal with the matter. She asked the Borough Clerk, Krystyna Bieracka-Olejnik, to see if a Borough ordinance exists which describes fire regulations.

Early in the meeting, Mayor Lee Allen read a letter from the school's principal, Dale Weinbach, thanking the Mayor for having the Borough's public works employee cut the school's grass. The school's custodian, George Vasseur, has been disabled with an injured back.

Mayor Allen announced that he would chair a seminar on solid waste at the League of Municipalities convention in Atlantic City this month.

Councilwoman Murphy reported that fire hydrant flushing was not done yet because a valve needs to be repaired.

In the public portion, Nona Sherak asked why the State Police have not been able to stop a boy from riding a motor bike, without lights or license, on Roosevelt streets. Mrs. Murphy said trooper Reinhart had spoken with the boy and his parents a month

ago. More complaints need to be filed with the State Police.

Ms. Sherak wanted everyone in town to know that the Borough Hall has an emergency generator and will provide shelter in case there is an extended power failure. She deplored the fact that only four Roosevelt residents were in the audience. Three more came in a little later. ■

Hamilton Wins

Continued from Page 1

would significantly increase Roosevelt's share, thus decreasing taxes, and it would appear that this was noted by many voters who would normally vote Democratic.

Roosevelt voters supported all three of the State referenda that were on the ballot. They approved the transportation and bridge bond issue by a vote of 174 to 102, the increase in the property tax deduction for veterans by 179 to 98, and the amendment to prohibit use of lottery funds for prison programs by 139 to 133. ■

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!**

PLANNING BOARD NEWS

Board Rebuffs Insistent Builder

by Bob Clark

With time running out on its option to buy the Notterman tract, Matzel and Mumford (M&M) pressed the Roosevelt Planning Board at its October 28 special meeting for a decision on the Hazlet developer's application for 65 residential lots on the property. Noting that M&M's insistence on a decision prevented testimony from the public and at least two of the Board's experts, Board members denied the application "without prejudice" shortly before midnight on a 7-0 vote. Chairman Joseph Zahora, Vice Chairwoman Gail Hunton, and members Bert Ellentuck, Louis Esakoff, Diana Moore, Mark Roberts and Bill Wisowaty voted. Mayor Lee Allen and Councilman Harry Parker, both also members of the Planning Board, were not eligible to vote since the application included requests for variances from a buffer requirement, according to Board Attorney Michele Donato. Paul Henry also did not vote because he was absent from some previous public hearings on the application and had not listened to all of the tape recordings of those meetings.

M&M had presented nine witnesses over seven evenings of public hearings between July 14 and October 13. On the eighth evening, October 28, the Board presented Alan Mallach, its pro bono Planning Consultant, and James DeMuro, its Engineer. Earlier, the Board had indicated that it also expected to hear from its water and sewer Engineering Consultant, David Monie, and its Planning Consultant, Michael Sullivan. Several Board members said that important issues had not been resolved to their satis-

faction regarding the application for the 110-acre property between the Cemetery and the Solar Village. The Board also did not have time to discuss a five-page memorandum from Kate John-Alder and Kirk Rothfuss, members of the Environmental Commission's Site Plan Review Committee.

Ms. Donato said the denial "without prejudice" meant that M&M could renew the application at a future date. She mentioned at the Board's November 10 regular meeting, however, that a representative of the developer had advised her that it would pursue legal action.

Paul Cosine, President of Newfield Developers, also threatened legal action in a vituperative November 8 letter that he insisted be read in its entirety at the November 10 meeting. The Freehold-based firm was the original purchaser of the option to buy the tract from its owners, Abby and Daniel Notterman. Later, Newfield assigned its option to M&M. Mr. Cosine focused his ire on Mr. Ellentuck, a former mayor and the most tenacious questioner of M&M witnesses. Mr. Cosine also reviled Ms. Hunton, a former Board chairwoman, for agreeing too much with Mr. Ellentuck. He claimed that Ms. Donato took too much time to answer legal questions and did not let Chairman Zahora "finish speaking without countless interruptions."

Mr. Cosine wrote that Mr. Ellentuck "through the entire process, was slumped back in his seat and would ask questions in what was a very pompous and berating manner." He added, "It would appear obvious that

the entire Board was following Mr. Ellentuck's lead." He claimed that while waiting for one meeting to begin, Mr. Ellentuck, Ms. Hunton and Mr. Esakoff were discussing the application with Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Cosine called that a violation of the Open Public Meetings Law. He concluded, "'As a result of these actions, I believe I have been financially damaged, and a meeting "has been arranged to discuss what legal remedy I may take against" Roosevelt. In an atmosphere charged by this and other threats of litigation, Board members did not respond to the letter, which included several sarcastic, exaggerated and disparaging statements. However, it was apparent that several members and Ms Donato disagreed completely with Mr. Cosine.

In denying M&M's application on October 28, the Board cited the applicant's failure to meet the purposes of the planned community development ordinance (called PCD I) governing the Notterman tract. These were described at length in an October 8 memorandum to the Board from Mr. Mallach, a former Board chairman. The memorandum emphasized the need to "ensure that continued growth takes place in a manner compatible with the existing character of the Jersey Homesteads historic district." It also highlighted the need to ensure adequate buffering and viewsheds.

A major concern of several Board members was the applicant's insistence that the Board grant variances from the requirement for a 100-ft. buffer at four places behind Eleanor Lane lots. M&M could have elimi-

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PLANNING BOARD NEWS

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nated this concern by removing four or five lots from its application. Instead, it spent a lot of time trying to convince the Board to grant the variances. This left no time for the Board to hear the public's evidence concerning their impact. Although the PCD I zoning ordinance permits a density of up to 66 homes, Mr. Mallach pointed out that other factors, such as buffers and wetland encroachment, might reduce the number of units deemed acceptable. He emphasized that the number of lots permitted by the density provision "is a maximum, not an entitlement." M&M had pointed out that it could relocate a few lots away from the buffer, but it never amended its application to do so.

The Board also cited failure to meet PCD I's design standards as a basis for its denial of M&M's application. Mr. Mallach pointed out that the applicant had presented no testimony or exhibits to enable the Board to determine whether the proposed houses would be consistent with the design guidelines of the ordinance. Chairman Zahora made a motion to amend the Board's denial resolution to exclude failure to meet design standards as a ground, but the motion was defeated by a vote of 4-3. Vice Chairwoman Hunton, Mr. Ellentuck, Ms. Moore and Mr. Esakoff voted against the motion. Chairman Zahora, Mr. Wisowaty and Mr. Roberts voted for the motion.

The Board also cited water and sewer system considerations for the denial. Mr. DeMuro recommended that the applicant submit a separate plan showing the location of a new water tower to serve the project, but no such plan was submitted. The appli-

cant also had asked for waivers of sewer and water connection fees. The Board did not appear ready, however, to recommend to the Borough Council that it agree to waive the fees in return for M&M constructing a new water tower and correcting infiltration in enough sewer pipes to give the sewer plant sufficient capacity.

The Board delayed until its December 8 meeting consideration of a Master Plan Reexamination Report. At the November 10 meeting, Mayor-elect Michael Hamilton delivered written comments prepared by Ralph Seligman, a professional planner and former Board Chairman, who was prevented from presenting them himself by his convalescence from a serious illness.

At the November 10 meeting the Board voted 5-3 to approve a side-yard variance permitting Michael Block to attach a gazebo to the front porch of his Lake Drive residence. Mayor Allen, ~~Mr. Zahora~~, Ms. Hunton, Ms. Moore, Councilman Parker and Mr. Wisowaty voted in favor of the application. Chairman Zahora, Mr. Ellentuck and Mr. Esakoff voted against it. The discussion was lengthy and, at times, heated. No neighbor complained, and some Board members agreed with Mr. Block that the addition would beautify the community. Mr. Ellentuck advised that if the Board is going to continue to grant such variances, it should ask the Council to change the side-yard requirements of the zoning ordinance. The gazebo will have only a 14-ft. side yard instead of the 25 feet required by the ordinance. Mr. Mallach noted that "25 feet is not a consistent pattern in the entire zone plan for the Borough."

The Board also discussed at length a request to review its grant of permission several years ago for Ms. Moore to park the school bus that serves the Borough's middle and high school students in the driveway of her Tamara Drive residence. Angel Cloughly and David Schwendeman praised their next-door neighbors but complained about the noise and fumes from bus start-ups and idling. Not long after the approval, the bus changed from diesel to gasoline powered. Ms. Moore did not participate in the discussion as a Board member.

Everyone acknowledged that the complainants had been bounced between the Council, the Zoning Officer and the Planning Board without obtaining clear answers. Ms. Donato recommended that the Board check its records to determine exactly what kind of approval had been granted. Mr. Ellentuck suggested that the situation be examined as a potential nuisance. Ms. Donato suggested that the complainants ask the Zoning Officer to make a decision on the alleged nuisance. She said that if he declines to decide or decides that it is not a nuisance, the complainants could appeal to the Board.

Ms. Hunton said, "My pragmatic side wants to move this along." She asked Mr. Hamilton and Henry John-Alder, both members of the School Board in attendance at the Planning Board meeting, to work with the full School Board to find another parking place. Meanwhile, Ms. Moore agreed to park the bus nose first in her driveway and to back it out and begin her route as soon as she starts the bus. ■

SCHOOL NEWS

School Board News

By Nancy Hamilton

October 21 Meeting:

Assemblyman Joseph Malone attended the October 21st meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education. Lauralynne Cokeley, Board President, summarized the efforts of the Board and Administration over the past six years to lower school taxes. She then presented to Assemblyman Malone a copy of the petition signed by residents of 275 out of 320 Roosevelt homes. Mr. Malone had recommended the circulation of the petition in order to demonstrate the level of support within the community to lower school taxes. Assemblyman Malone thanked the Board and described his involvement in the process, which began with a phone call from Dick Messner, the interim CSA. The Assemblyman is prepared to pursue legislation that would remedy the way the amount of State aid that we are to receive is calculated. He is supported not only by the residents of our town, but also officials from the State Department of Education. Our Board is prepared to present our case to the appropriate hearing committees.

There has also been recent correspondence pertaining to the issue of our school tax. A copy of the resolution opposing the funding formula was sent to Governor Whitman, who wrote to the Board and acknowledged her receipt of the petition. Borough Council member John Towle also wrote to State Senator DiFrancesco, describing our situation and enlisting the Senator's support as we pursue ways to address the problem. A copy of Councilman Towle's letter was forwarded to the Board.

Other School Board business included a review of the financial audit. Ms. Minutolo, business administrator and school board secretary, announced that the audit has been successfully completed with no corrections or recommendations. The Board congratulated Ms. Minutolo. All bills and expenditures presented by the Finance Committee were approved.

Other committee reports were as follows:

Education/Personnel: The district's special education files were monitored and minor revisions were required. The corrective action plan has been completed. The board agreed to support the school's safety patrol program with a stipend of \$200.

Building and Grounds: The Board has received the draft of a report stating that there is no contamination in the

soil around the unused oil tank. The Board is waiting for an estimate on repairs to the exterior stucco.

The Board looked forward to the party to be held in Helen Barth's honor on October 22nd. The meeting was adjourned at about 9:45pm.

November 18th Meeting:

The November 18th meeting of the board of education was called to order by Mrs. Cokeley, the minutes were approved and correspondence shared. Of note was a letter from New Jersey Commissioner of Education David Hespe, advising the Board that potential changes to the funding formula currently in effect are under scrutiny from the State. He acknowledged that information has been provided to him through Senator Singer and Assemblyman Malone regarding school taxes in Roosevelt.

Chief School Administrator, Dr. Weinbach, informed the Board of recent school events including a school wide presentation on Native American culture, and activities led by the Girl Scouts in recognition of the Great American Smoke-Out. Members of the faculty have been involved in professional development activities, such as training in technology and in integrating literature into the curriculum. The annual Thanksgiving celebration was held on Wednesday, November 24th.

Board members Jill Lipoti, David Ticktin and Lauralynne Cokeley attended the New Jersey School Boards convention, as did Dr. Weinbach and Ms. Minutolo. Ms. Lipoti reported on a strategic planning workshop that she attended which she felt was extremely relevant. The Board is planning a one-day retreat in January to be held at the Monmouth County library.

There was discussion regarding the appropriate place to park the contracted school bus used to transport students to East Windsor schools. The bus is currently parked at the residence of the bus driver, but concerns have been raised by the adjacent neighbor about the noise and exhaust while the bus is warming up. The driver, in collaboration with school and borough officials, has suggested other places that the bus can be housed, away from residential property. The Board agreed to be helpful in investigating alternative locations.

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SCHOOL NEWS

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The board approved a special education placement as well as home instruction for a student who will be out for several weeks because of a medical condition. All bills and expenditures were approved. There were significant repairs to the school's boiler.

Ms. Grayson reported on the first meeting of the newly formed Instructional Council. This committee is composed of school board members Ms. Grayson and Ms. Silverman, Dr. Weinbach, and faculty members Mr. Luckenbach and Ms. Gagliardi. The Council identified the following three areas to be looked into this year: (1) measuring and reporting student achievement, (2) providing educational enrichment and (3) professional development in light of state requirements for ongoing training for all teachers.

The board accepted with regret the resignation of Heather Philhower. Her contributions to the music program, and more recently to foreign language instruction, are appreciated. In a separate action, Lisa Kavalos and Howard Kaufman were approved as district substitutes.

Helen Barth's party was such a success that there was talk about organizing a community function for New Year's. The board seemed dissuaded by the enormity of such a project.

This meeting was adjourned before 10pm. The last school Board meeting of 1999 will be held on December 16th. ■

Be Aware of what's going on:

**Start the Millennium right—
attend the monthly
Council and Planning Board
meetings.**

**Be Involved !
It's Your Town !**

PTA News

by Kelly Mitchell

Brr! It is cold
It must be November
Many things to remember

Nov 10
Family Portrait Night
Many families dressed up
Many animals too
Oh! what a sight

Thanksgiving Assembly
Nov 24
The children were outstanding
Bread and Muffins made the day
complete
Hope you got that special snapshot!

Holiday Gift Fair
Nov 29th & 30th
Was such a delight
Children being grownup
Grownups being children
Making sure that gift
is just so right

Onto December the
PTA doesn't meet
But is real busy to get
Things complete

Winter Carnival - Feb. 24
Is the next project on hand
Many decisions to make
Looking for many
helping hands

The PTA would like to wish everyone a safe
and happy holiday season!
See everyone next year. ■

From The Desk of Dale Weinbach, CSA

On behalf of the students and staff of Roosevelt School, I would like to extend sincere appreciation to resident veterans Lenny Sacharoff, Marty Sokoloff and Richard Carroll, who shared their military experiences with us in honor of Veterans Day. In preparation for their visit, the students composed questions which, when answered by our guests, brought their understanding of wartime service to a personal level. Community members provide a rich resource to our students and we hope to see our neighbors play an integral role in our school.

As well as connecting to our immediate community, we are making connections with other agencies and organizations. The fourth, fifth and sixth grade classes are going to participate in a program with Rutgers athletes. TESA, The Education Sports Alliance, is a collaboration between Rutgers University Center for Mathematics, Science and Computer Education and Rutgers Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. Its objective is to bring the values and life skills inherent in sports into the school classroom. In this program Rutgers athletes serve as models and mentors for youngsters, communicating with them by video-conferencing and emailing. Electronic messages going back and forth between student groups and their Rutgers mentors serve to heighten students' sense of self and

importance as members of a larger community. Hedy Roma, from the American Indian College fund in Manhattan visited our third, fifth and sixth grades during art period to enhance their study of native American art.

Numerous activities have been underway during November. Our newly formed safety patrol took up their posts November 15. The students are learning to keep each other safe, and to be respectful to others while giving instructions. During American Education Week -Nov. 14-20, parents were invited to visit school and see students and teachers in action during the course of a regular school day. At last count, the sixth graders had sold over 345 pies for Thanksgiving. That's a lot of pies! Our sixth graders are proving to be resourceful entrepreneurs and they continue to develop other fund-raising activities. All grades participated in a program for Thanksgiving, which was held before our school closing for the holiday. The PTA sponsored a holiday gift shop that was most successful.

On December 21st the Kreps Middle School band will be visiting RPS and presenting a 45 minute concert. The concert will begin at 9:30 a.m. and our residents are certainly welcome. School will be closed for winter break from December 24 through January 3. I wish all our community members a healthy, productive year 2000. ■

News From Junior Girl Scout Troop 1904

by Mary Tulloss

The girl scouts would like to thank all their friends and neighbors in town who bought girl scout cookies. The money from this sale will be used by the girls for both fun and charitable projects such as camping, hiking and making kits of personal items for homeless kids. Many of these projects are yet to be determined since the emphasis is on the girls' planning and decision making, and it will be up to them to make a budget and decide how the money will be spent.

In October we visited a corn maze in Millstone and had to work as a team and figure out clues to find our way out.

We also began working on a Community Awareness Patch. We have learned about the dangers of smoking and will be making pledges not to smoke - lung cancer has surpassed breast cancer as the number one cause of death from cancer for women.

We will also be working on a project to recycle greeting cards. Please save your holiday cards (fronts only are needed). We will be putting boxes and posters up around town at convenient locations to collect your cards which are used at St. Jude's Ranch for Children to teach skills and earn money for the children who live in this residential facility. ■

SCHOOL NEWS

RCNS December Newsletter

by Ginny Weber

In October, our class went on a field trip to Rossi's. The children were very excited to see how pizza is made. They even helped out a little. Of course, the best part was eating! Thank you to Mike & Keith for such a wonderful time.

We also had a very special visit from Fire Chief Kim Dexheimer. He showed us all the special equipment he needs to fight a fire. We also learned how to keep safe and get help if there is a fire.

In November, we had a special election so that we could learn how elections work. We are also finding out about "Uncle Sam", our flag and other representations of our country.

The children always wonder what happens to animals in winter. We discussed migration, hibernation and camouflage as means of survival for animals.

To get a better understanding of the Thanksgiving holiday, the children were shown how the Pilgrims and Indians lived and helped each other. It's a perfect time to show how people could be so different and yet get along so well.

If you want to know how to cook the best Thanksgiving turkey, just ask one of the RCNS students. They are sure to have some great ideas!

We also went on a great trip to the Wonder Museum in November, courtesy of Jim Carnevale, who set up our whole day for us. The children had a

wonderful time playing in all the areas. They also enjoyed making a craft and story time as well.

In December we will learn about day and night. We will talk about the different things that happen during day and night.

Since the cold weather is upon us, it's a great time to talk about freezing temperatures and how to keep healthy during the winter season. We will also learn about different kinds of trees such as deciduous, conifers and evergreens.

We culminate our holiday season with our second annual "Winter Wonderland" party. We are planning special activities for the children and their families. I'm sure a great time will be had by all.
Happy Holidays!! ■

Senior Citizens' Club News

by Herb Johnson, Secretary

Twenty four members of the Roosevelt Senior Citizens were at its regular monthly meeting at the Borough Hall on Tuesday, November 9.

From 1:30 to 2:15 p.m., a Visiting Nurses Association nurse checked blood pressures of members who requested it.

The meeting was then called to order by Vice-chair Thelma Thompson. Clare Sacharoff said a slight error was made in the last Borough Bulletin article. She agreed to be Assistant Secretary rather than Assistant Treasurer. She will also be Chair of Membership Records.

New member Beth Johnson was introduced to everyone present. The plaque honoring Jeanette Koffler was displayed. As agreed upon, it will be mounted alongside the plaque honoring Manny Koffler on the wall inside the Roosevelt synagogue.

Dolores Chasan gave the Treasurer's report. A contribution to Cancer Care was made in memory of Augusta Chasan.

The next events for members were agreed upon: November 16, Tuesday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., bus trip to Delicious Orchards in Colts Neck and lunch in Maxwell's in Colts Neck; November 19, Friday 12:30 to 2 p.m., Box Lunch at the Solar Village Community

Room in Roosevelt, advanced one week from usual forth Friday because it is the day after Thanksgiving; December 7, Tuesday 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., Regular Monthly Business Meeting at the Borough Hall, Dolores Chasan and Clare Sacharoff are to be hostesses for refreshments; December 18, Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., bus trip with the Millstone Seniors Club to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse, \$20 paid in advance.

At the next regular meeting on the first Tuesday in December, members are to decide if the business part of the meetings in the year 2000 will begin at 1 p.m. instead of 2 p.m. All Roosevelt residents 60 years or older are welcome to become members. Dues are \$2 per year. ■

"THE ROCK"



by Bruce H. Cohen

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For most people the phrase "The Rock" might mean Alcatraz or Rocky Marciano, but for me I immediately think of a big rock near an elementary school located in the small town of Roosevelt, New Jersey. On this rock lies a memorial plaque dedicated to the men and women who served in World War II. My father's name, Morris Cohen, is one of many names on the plaque.

My grandparents, Jacob and Ethel Cohen, were among the original residents of "Jersey Homesteads", as it was known back then. Accompanying them on the move from New York were their four sons; Abe, Morris (my father), Joe and Simon.

All four sons eventually moved to the Washington DC area where they got married and raised their own families.

Throughout the years, we (my brothers and sister) used to visit my grandparents in Roosevelt on our summer vacation. We would go shopping, go to the amusement park, play in the backyard; but the most memorable part of the visit would be our annual walk to see "The Rock." We never really wanted to go but we of course went anyway. I mean "it was just a rock" ...what did we know.

I never realized how important that rock was until years later after my father passed away. That "rock" is a reminder of what he and others gave up for his country during those war years. It will be there for all visitors to see in the years to come. I am proud of my father and it's always an honor for me to visit "The Rock" which I have done many times in the last few years. ■

LETTERS

Dear Fellow Citizens,

I want to express my pride in the voters of Roosevelt. Many of you came out in a driving rainstorm to cast your votes in the November election. In New Jersey, 30% of the voters came to the polls; in our town 72% of our registered voters pulled the levers.

The vote that elected me as your Mayor by a 5 to 2 margin expressed the voters' mandate for my stated convictions:

1. Development proposals must be thoroughly analyzed to assure maximum benefits to Roosevelt taxpayers, rather than maximum profits for developers.
2. Development must be phased in incrementally to match water, sewer, and school capacities.
3. Development must be carefully designed to maintain our precious open-space.
4. Above all, we must be careful to preserve the community we value.

My first goal will be to lower property taxes by continuing to press for the \$300,000 in annual state aid that the State Department of Education agrees we should receive. I hope you will join me as I intensify and broaden this effort by urging the Council to work in concert with the School Board.

In matters of legislation and finance, we all know that the devil is in the details. We cannot afford sloppiness in public policy action that will have irreparable effects and costly unintended consequences.

During the next few months, I will attempt to make the Borough budget clear and understandable. I would like to see the Borough budget summary distributed to each household. After all, the property taxes you pay are your money. You have a right to know how it is spent.

In a small town we all know that every tax dollar counts. For example, while I plan to attend the League of Municipalities Convention in Atlantic City, I will attend at my own expense. I do not believe that Roosevelt taxpayers should be asked to continue to pick up a \$388 tab for a stay at the Claridge Hotel and Casino, or pay for expensive meals. As Mayor, I will not feel entitled to such perks at your expense.

I am a firm believer in open government. Except where the law makes it mandatory, no discussions of public policy should occur where records are unavailable to the public. Certainly, no decisions should be made at meetings where the public is not allowed to be present. Public policy decisions should be made in full accordance with the NJ Open Public Meetings Act (also known as the Sunshine Law.) Furthermore, as Mayor I will chair and manage public meetings so that Roosevelt is again a full participatory democracy. I will allow citizens the time necessary to express their wide range of opinions. Whenever possible, I will attempt to read the public's written correspondence into the record. A properly run meeting rarely gets out of hand. I will not attempt to close the public portion of a meeting because of lively discussion nor will I continue the practice of calling the State Police to quell minor disturbances at meetings. These practices are an insult to Roosevelt's citizens.

I pledge to work hard during my term of office as your Mayor and I hope to justify your vote of confidence. With your active participation, I am sure that we can work together as a community to solve our common problems. I look forward to your presence at Council meetings.

Sincerely,

Mike Hamilton
Mayor Elect of Roosevelt

LETTERS

To the Editor:

On November 10, 1999, Mr. Michael Block appeared before the Planning Board to seek a "C" variance which would allow him to erect a gazebo in his side yard. He needed a variance because the Borough Zoning Ordinance requires a side yard setback of 25 feet and Mr. Block's gazebo would only have a side yard setback of 14'.

My position on the granting of "C" variances is well known and I restated it at the meeting. It is that a "C" variance should only be granted if it can be demonstrated that the applicant meets the strict conditions imposed by Paragraph 40:55D-70 (c-1 and c-2) of the Municipal Land Use Law and that the granting of a variance based on "aesthetic improvement" or some other undefined criteria will establish a precedent that will only create future problems. I further stated that, if the Board was going to continue to approve C variances to applicants who did not meet the strict conditions, then it should recommend to Council that the ordinance concerning setbacks be revised to reflect the Board's thinking on this matter.

During the meeting, I made Mr. Block aware of the language of the law and questioned him quite aggressively as to his opinions on what "exceptional" conditions on his lot justified the granting of the variance. Suffice it to say that I was not satisfied that there were any exceptional conditions. Mr. Block then made a statement to the effect that I was a hypocrite because I "had applied for a variance" and I was guilty of being selective in my application of the rules. When I denied ever having applied for a variance, Mr. Block accused me, in public forum, of being a liar.

Mr. Block's private opinion of me is a matter of no consequence, however, he has essentially accused me of perverting my public duty and I cannot allow that to go unanswered.

The facts are as follows:

1. I approached the Synagogue Board members with a request to buy all or any portion of that lot that lay between my property and theirs.
2. I assured them that if I acquired the property, I would have a deed recorded that incorporated that parcel with my present land and that I would not sell it for development.
3. I designed and constructed an addition to my home that was in full conformance with the zoning laws of the Borough and did not require any special approvals or variances from the Planning Board or the Governing Body nor did I request any special approvals or variances since that would not be consistent with my position on Class "C" variances. A zoning permit was issued on March 2, 1992 by Paul Eichler, the Zoning Officer.

In regard to Mr. Block's assertion that I requested the synagogue to grant me a variance, I have served in public office in this community long enough to know that it is the Planning Board and not the Synagogue Board, despite their close acquaintance with the Almighty, that has the exclusive jurisdiction in these matters.

Sincerely,

Bert Ellentuck

Farmland Preservation.....

by Rod Tulloss, President of the Fund For Roosevelt

As the first steps of farmland preservation in Roosevelt begin to appear in the press, it's time for us to describe how farmland preservation is possible in New Jersey.

The Fund for Roosevelt, Inc. was formed because the original trustees and others with whom they spoke throughout the Borough were concerned that the options for a governmental body were limited and that a nonprofit corporation that could supplement our government would be useful in helping the town. A nonprofit has special standing in many state programs. A nonprofit can have communications with citizens, landowners, land buyers, state agencies, other nonprofits, etc. without the legal constraints that apply to members of governing bodies. A non-profit can focus energy on a smaller number of issues than a governmental body. A nonprofit can indulge in thinking about things that are said to be "impossible" or "have been tried and don't work." The organizers of the Fund heard the litany of impossibility and "already tried"; but, believed that seeking other ways would lead to finding them.

More quickly than we could have imagined, some ways have been found.

How does preservation of farmland take place with the Fund's involvement? The first point to be addressed is how a piece of farmland can be stripped of the right to develop it.

Once, I saw it explained this way: Farmland that has development rights associated with it was described as a loaf of bread. (My companion and I happened to be eating at the time, and some bread had just been put on the table.) The Fund obtains an option from the current owner (for a fixed period of time) to buy the farmland (the loaf of bread). If the Fund doesn't buy the loaf of bread during that period, they lose any money they've already paid and lose the right to be the buyer.

Having the option in hand (no bread yet), the Fund can go to the state and arrange to sell to the state the rights to develop the land (a slice of the bread). When this sale is accomplished (my instructor removed a slice of bread from the loaf in front of us), the state retires these development rights permanently (my instructor, taking the part of the state, ate the slice of bread). The remainder of the loaf represents the land itself — soil, tilled land, streams, woods, etc. — utterly unchanged from what it was before and just as valuable for farming. So we now have a very good loaf of bread with a slice taken out. The amount of money needed to buy the remaining part of the loaf is much less than the cost of the whole loaf at the beginning of the story. The loaf is just as tasty as it was and is still desirable.

Since the Fund has no desire to own land for any length of time, while arranging to sell the development rights to the state, the Fund also seeks a buyer for the land. (With development rights sold, it is called "restricted" land). The

A Gift Idea from the Fund for Roosevelt, Inc.

by Rod Tulloss

If your family traditionally gives gifts in the upcoming holiday season, we would like to make a suggestion.

The sister of one of the members of the Fund for Roosevelt, Inc. gave the member a donation to the Fund as her gift.

In our family, we liked the idea and are asking our relatives to consider doing the same.

The Fund is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit registered with the state of New Jersey, and any gift sent to the Fund is fully tax deductible. How many times is a holiday gift tax deductible?

At the present time, monies contributed to the Fund pay for the overhead of preserving farmland in the Borough. When this task has been completed to the degree possible, the monies will be used for the further benefit of the town. One possibility is the reduction of the town's debt.

Another is the creation of an endowment that would

.. How It Works

land has been considerably reduced in price for the buyer; moreover, the better the land, the greater the likelihood that the reduction is bigger. It helps us that there is considerable top quality farmland left in Roosevelt.

A farmer seeking to farm (not develop) can then buy restricted farmland at a price much less than the original cost of the farmland. The Fund buys and sells the farm roughly simultaneously. The purchaser has a farm. The state has retired the development rights. The Borough has preserved farmland, views, wetlands, woods, etc.. The Fund did one of its proposed jobs.

The deals can be a bit more complex than this. For example, the state has the right to separate wetlands by subdivision and buy the wetlands outright. The right to build a farmhouse and out buildings can remain with the land (making it more attractive to sell and increasing its value as a rateable to the Borough). The amount of impermeable surface can be restricted so that the farming will be "open field" farming and not greenhouse farming. The deed given by the Fund can include the requirement that a clear view of a solitary tree be preserved. Likewise, the deed can carry forward in perpetuity a restriction fixing where buildings can be placed, reserving the right of townspeople to walk on a path through woods, etc. It is a question of the goals of the Fund and the negotiation of the Fund's ultimate sale of the land.

The Fund would seek to recover its expenses (overhead)

from the sale of land. In this way, we make the most of money we raise. Moreover, if we buy land with donated money, we expect that money would be recovered by the Fund in the sale of the land.

As you can see, the approach employed should make it possible that Borough tax dollars not be called upon to assist in farmland preservation. Moreover, the approach does not bar carefully considered development. It makes it possible to control development to a considerable degree via restrictive covenants in deeds. It is imaginable that a deed for developable land could require development to be in total compliance with Borough ordinances minimizing requests for variances and ensuring that any development would be in character with our historic district and not strain our limited resources.

At the end of the land preservation phase of the Fund's activities, we expect to have money that will support the next goals we pursue.

Our growing web site:

(<http://pluto.njcc.com/~ret/ffr/fund.html>) will give you access to information about Roosevelt, press clippings related to the town and the Fund, the beginning of an intensive biological survey of the town, links to related sites and more. If you have questions about any aspect of this article, please feel free to call us at (609) 448-5096 or to write the Fund at P.O. Box 404, Roosevelt, NJ 08555-0404. Email can be sent to <ret@njcc.com>. ■

address preservation of the Borough through maintenance of infrastructure and underwriting costs of public education an endowment that would make it possible, year after year, for Roosevelt to be maintained at a cost to its citizens that is within reason.

In the article we explain how the monies are used and how the preservation deals can work.

The Fund has no employees. At present, all funds collected pay for land purchase and necessary legal and consulting services, government fees, land appraisal, surveying,

testing for presence of toxic chemicals such as old pesticides, etc. To date, all printing, mailing, and other "office" costs have been born by members of the Board of Trustees.

We hope you'll adopt the donation gift idea in your family. It will help historic Roosevelt enter the next millennium with a bright future.

With very best wishes for meaningful and happy holidays to all in town. ■

R o o Q s u e i v z e l t

by Laurel Hamilton

This was part of Laurel's 6th grade project on the history of Roosevelt.

Please circle all that apply.



1. The town we now live in was known as which of the following?
 - A. Paradise
 - B. Roosevelt
 - C. Jersey Homesteads
 - D. All of the above
2. In 1972 a small store owned and run by Walter Riesenfeld and his son Joe opened in town to sell newspapers, candy, ice cream, etc. The store that stood on the site where Rossi's Deli now stands was called?
 - A. Riesenfelds Deli
 - B. Joe's Shop
 - C. Walt's Place
 - D. Roosevelt's Shop Rite
3. On Dec. 27, 1956 at 2:30 a.m., what disaster occurred in Roosevelt?
 - A. The Great New Jersey earthquake hit destroying many houses in town.
 - B. Lightning struck the Roosevelt water tower.
 - C. An enormous avalanche caused by a 20-inch snowfall closed Paradise Hill.
 - D. A massive fire destroyed the post office, meat market, grocery store and TV repair shop.
4. The old abandoned gas station once, owned by Leon Vasseur, was called:
 - A. The New, Not-Yet Abandoned Gas Station
 - B. "Frenchy's"
 - C. Roosevelt Pep Boys
 - D. Gus' Gas
5. Where was the old business center, which included the post office, the butcher shop, and A&M Television company?
 - A. North Rochdale, Farm Lane which now houses the post office.
 - B. Brown Street where the old button factory used to be.
 - C. Farm Lane, where the old municipal building once was.
 - D. Eleanor Lane and North Valley where the Pine Valley Swim Club is.
6. Some of the early residents of Roosevelt hated their new houses because:
 - A. It was drop dead boring living here.
 - B. The closets were much too large for their needs (they had very few possessions).
 - C. The houses were ugly with their flat top roofs and their modern design.
 - D. The windows were much larger than their previous houses in Europe or New York.
 - E. All of the above.
7. In order to pay for their houses the Federal Government required Roosevelt homeowners to:
 - A. Work in the factory for twenty years at a \$1.15 per hour.
 - B. Pay \$3,000 total (with \$500 down payment).
 - C. Pay \$50 per day for the first 2 years.
 - D. Do nothing (which was easy because there was nothing to do here), in fact the Government paid \$5 a week to anyone willing to live in boring Roosevelt.



8. On June 2, 1962, the Roosevelt Memorial was dedicated during a ceremony where 2,000 people attended. Which Roosevelt resident designed and created the bronze head, which took 16 years to create?

- A. Jonathan Shahn
- B. Bernarda Shahn
- C. Ben Shahn
- D. Nobody, it is F.D.R.'s actual head.

9. In May of 1971, Ben Shahn's "Roosevelt Mural" 55 feet long and 11 feet high was:

- A. Purchased at auction by the Roosevelt School Board for \$2,000,000 making Ben Shahn a very rich man.
- B. Restored by the R.P.S. students using crayons.
- C. Peeled off the wall, rolled into a giant cylinder and shipped to Italy for repairs.
- D. Finally finished after 35 years of tireless painting.

10. Which Roosevelt house now stands on a hill which might have been known during the revolution as Center Hill and possibly was used as part of a network of beacons to signal the militia?

- A. The Skye's house on Eleanor Lane
- B. The old Benjamin Brown house
- C. The Stinson's house on North Valley Road
- D. The Mueller's house on Homestead Lane ■



**SCHOOL is
OPEN!**

**Watch your
Speed!**

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



Roosevelt Weather Almanac

by Ron Filepp

By mid-November the season has changed from early to late autumn. One obvious demarcation is the leaves. Most have fallen by the end of the second week of the month. The trees are free of their colorful burden.

In the past, I would have begun raking by that time. Or, if not, at least an anxious need to begin raking would have set in. It's a job I dislike coaxing, cajoling and finally forcing reluctant leaves from their hiding places only to watch them replaced by the late falling leaves from our sweet-gum tree, or worse by the flying detritus of a neighbor's tree or yard.

Don't misunderstand. I take pride and comfort in the fact that Roosevelt still has more trees than people. Watching the release of leaves that fly like a flock of birds, or a single leaf break away from a tree to slowly spiral down to the ground to join its comrades in a conversation of color makes the chore worthwhile. With apologies to surrounding neighbors with tidy yards, I'll allow the conversation to continue a little longer in this yard. Perhaps as long as it takes to add a little white to the mix.

On a recent evening walk in the Assunpink, it seemed as though the snow might not be far off. It was a cold November night, down into the 30 degrees. The stars seemed frozen in their places. Along the road, the trees opened to reveal a large field in a shallow valley. A south-westerly breeze was doing battle there against the early advance of the approaching cold season. The air was warm and fresh as it rolled up from the valley. Sensations and thoughts usually generated by early autumn weather overtook me. After crossing the width of the small valley the cold and associated thoughts returned.

Cold weather won against warm in October. The average temperature for the month was below normal by about 1.3 degrees. Precipitation levels continued on the rebound in October. Almost 4.5 inches of rain fell that month.

From the beginning of autumn to the middle of November, there has been nearly 16 inches of rain. That's well ahead of the average 11 inches of rainfall Roosevelt gets for the entire fall season. The wettest month was September with 10.50 inches. November was running below normal at mid-month with only one inch recorded.



October 15 - November 15

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	62.5	34.5	48.5	0.00
16	72.0	43.5	57.8	0.00
17	75.0	57.0	66.0	0.00
18	60.0	49.0	54.5	0.94
19	50.0	38.0	44.0	0.00
20	53.0	52.0	52.5	0.06
21	57.0	41.0	49.0	0.65
22	64.0	40.0	52.0	0.00
23	57.0	42.0	49.5	0.50
24	57.0	36.0	46.5	0.00
25	57.5	37.5	47.5	0.00
26	64.0	44.0	54.0	0.00
27	60.0	40.0	50.0	0.00
28	56.0	37.0	46.5	0.00
29	65.0	42.0	53.5	0.00
30	69.0	44.0	56.5	0.00
31	68.0	53.0	60.5	0.00
1	67.5	48.0	57.8	0.00
2	69.0	50.0	59.5	0.00
3	53.5	42.0	47.8	1.00
4	49.0	37.0	43.0	0.00
5	61.0	36.0	48.5	0.00
6	67.0	38.0	52.5	0.00
7	49.0	37.5	43.3	0.00
8	49.5	30.0	39.8	0.00
9	62.0	33.0	47.5	0.00
10	74.0	51.0	62.5	0.00
11	58.5	34.0	46.3	0.00
12	55.0	32.0	43.5	0.00
13	56.0	40.0	48.0	0.00
14	67.0	38.0	52.5	0.00
15	47.0	40.	43.8	0.00

Total Precipitation 3.15

Weather Event

The coldest Christmas day on record in New Jersey occurred in 1980 when the temperature plummeted to 2 degrees.

Weather Word

Noctilucent clouds are high altitude clouds seen at night that reflect twilight to the earth long after sunset and long before sunrise. Other lower level clouds reflect light from streetlights and brighten otherwise dark nights. As development increases in the area, there will be more of this light. On clear nights, this light will diminish the view of bright stars and completely obliterate the view of many dimmer stars.

Norvelt, Pennsylvania: A Visit To a Sister Community



by Michael Ticktin

Recently, while on a visit to Pittsburgh, I decided to pay a visit to the nearby town of Greensburgh where, according to the list of 99 New Deal communities in Paul K. Conkin's *Tomorrow A New World: The New Deal Community Program*, I might find Westmoreland Homesteads, the only one of the 34 subsistence homesteads communities other than Jersey Homesteads that is located in a northeastern state. It is also one of only three such communities that was larger, with 255 units as opposed to Jersey Homesteads 206.

Finding the place turned out to be easier said than done. There were no signs in Greensburgh indicating the way to Westmoreland Homesteads. Nor was it on the map in the fire house at which I stopped. The policeman I spoke with never heard of it.

I had better luck, however, when I stopped at the county art museum. The woman at the front desk told me that she had never heard of Westmoreland Homesteads, but that there was a community several miles outside of town called Norvelt which was named for Eleanor Roosevelt and that perhaps this was what I was looking for. Putting myself in the position of someone inquiring in Hightstown as to where Jersey Homesteads was located, it was obvious to me that it was. To add to my good fortune, the woman's son had stopped by to visit her and he said he would be happy to lead me there. It turned out to be about ten miles away, over back roads, and it is only because of the kindness of that gentleman, Mr. Alan Althardt, that this article is being written.

When I got to Norvelt and drove around, I noticed both similarities

and differences. Like Roosevelt, the streets are laid out in semicircles coming off a main road. The appearance of the streets is also similar, including the use of triangles. Also, there appears to be about one acre per house, though it is all allocated to the individual lots and not split between the lots and the common lands, as in the case here. The Norvelt Public School is near the main road, but entered from a side street, as is the case here. The main focus of public activity appears to be Norvelt Fireman's Club, where I found a few people who were able to tell me something about life in the community, as well as about the garment factory that produced uniforms during World War II.

Unlike Jersey Homesteads, Westmoreland Homesteads never became a separate municipality. There was apparently no perceived

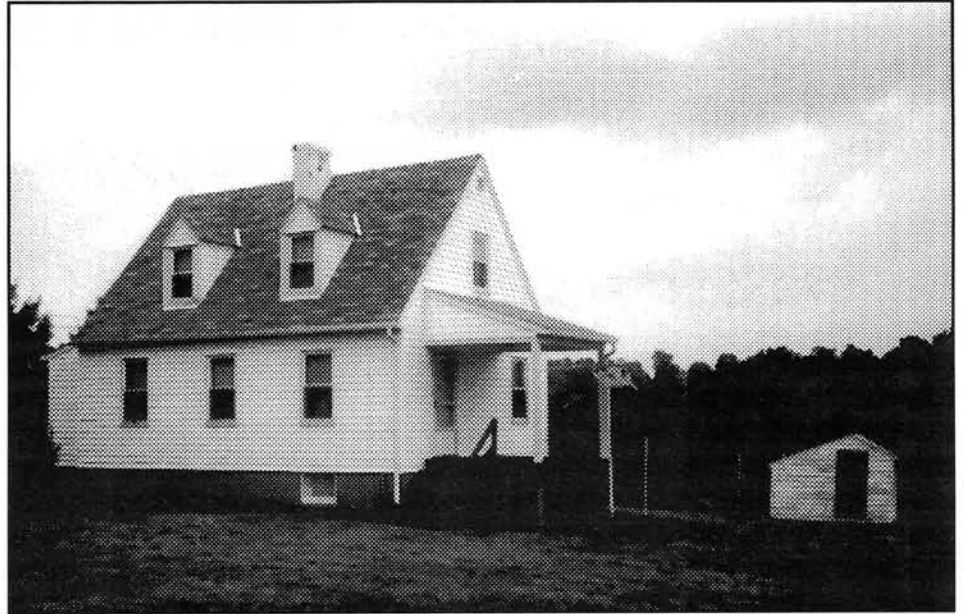
Continued in Page 20

Norvelt, Pennsylvania:

Continued from Page 19

need to do that, since the homesteads there were from the immediate area. Indeed, Conkin characterizes Westmoreland Homesteads as a "stranded community" for unemployed coalminers. Jersey Homesteads, on the other hand, was built by Jewish garment workers, most of whom came from New York City, who were clearly quite different both culturally and in their political views from most of the people then living in Millstone Township, which made separation necessary in order to avoid conflict.

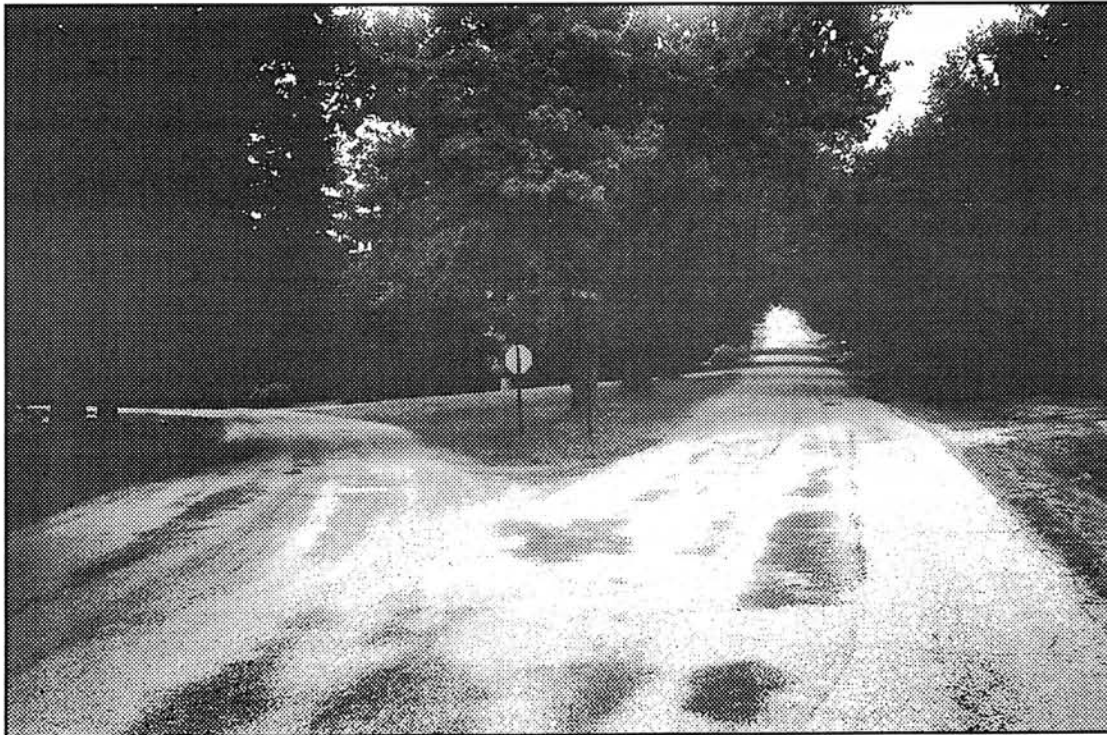
One difference between Norvelt and Roosevelt that is immediately apparent is the contrast in housing design. The Bauhaus experiment was not attempted in the hills of western Pennsylvania. Instead, the houses are small, two-story frame dwellings that are not unlike other homes in the area. As is the case here, many of the houses have been improved and expanded and there are a few newer houses as well, though there is no



area in which newer houses predominate.

Those who are interested in subsistence homesteads tourism and wish to go a bit further than Norvelt would be well advised to go to West Virginia and visit two other "stranded communities," Tygert Valley Homesteads (195 homes at Elkins)

and Arthurdale (165 homes at Reedsville), the first of the communities to be built. There is an organization called Arthurdale Heritage, Inc. that has developed the community as a site for tourism and has built a museum of the history of Arthurdale and the New Deal. It can be visited on the web at www.arthurdaleheritage.org. ■



Dietary Fiber = Long Life?

by Hortense Sochowitzky

Several months ago I had a happy accident: I dropped my recipe box and all the old, no longer used recipes dropped out. Time to bring its contents up to date, I thought.

All the recipes for buttery cakes, beef stews, high cholesterol sauces, rich casseroles were discarded, except for one which I could not bear to give up - Florentine cookies. Now, it's high fiber and low fat for me and for most of my friends.

I was reminded of my "little old auntie" whose weight fluctuated from 75 to 79 pounds. (I once asked her doctor how much her skeletal frame might weigh and he said "probably 74 pounds"). She had a sweet tooth which she encouraged and nurtured. She loved Florentines. She was meticulous about limiting salt in her diet and Florentines require no salt! But heavy cream, sugar and chocolate were pure joy to her. She died on her 97th birthday after an active life and the ingestion of huge numbers of Florentine cookies.

She lived alone in New York and I visited her once a week, bringing the week's package of her favorite cookie. If I failed to bring them one week, or brought flowers or "boughten" cake instead, Aunt Ida, who had been a first grade teacher in the New York public schools many years before, would scold me for being lazy. The fact that I was in my mid to late sixties then did not save me from the scoldings.

Now Bess Tremper, who has known me and my cookies for a long time, has asked for the recipe for The Bulletin. It came originally from the *Joy of Cooking* by Irma Rombauer, and was re-printed in 1980 in the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin Cook Book. It is repeated here with a small variation of mine:



- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 3 Tbs. sugar
- 1/3 cup blanched, slivered almonds
- 1/4 lb. preserved, diced orange peel (see note below)
- 1/4 cup all purpose flour
- 3-4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, melted

Mix all ingredients except chocolate, stirring well. Drop from teaspoon on greased, lightly floured cookie sheet, well apart. Bake in 350 degree oven for 10 to 15 minutes, or until golden brown. Watch carefully; they burn easily. When cool spread the bottoms with the melted chocolate. Dry on wax paper, bottoms up. They freeze well and may be eaten directly from the freezer.

Note: Home glazed orange zest looks and tastes better than the commercial kind. The peel of 1 medium orange, diced small, cooked in 1/2 cup water with 3 Tbs. sugar until all water is absorbed, is just right.

Yield: 25 to 28 2 inch cookies. ■

Query: Can someone tell me how much measurable dietary fiber there may be in the peel of 1 medium orange?

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.

Saturday December 11 An Evening of Storytelling

The Second Annual storytelling evening presented by RAP, featuring professional storytellers Jamie Reeber Kosa, David Brahinsky, Arthur Shapiro and special guest, Susan Danoff, founding director of Storytelling Arts, Inc. of Princeton. Special time - 7:30 p.m

Saturday January 8 Poetry

Join the Roosevelt poets for an evening of winter introspection (carrying coals to Newcastle) with musical accompaniment.

Saturday February 5 Piano Concert

Following his Beethoven Sonata recital last year, Alan Mallach will return with a new program drawn from the master-works of the classic piano repertory, along with his usual illuminating commentary.

Saturday March 4 An Evening of Creative Technology

Roosevelt resident, Brad Garton, is Director of the Columbia University Computer Music Center. Join us for a "concert" of new music and performance works by Garton and students/faculty/researchers working at the CMC - new interactive performance technologies and state-of-the-art music interfaces will be the norm!

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. ■

ROOSEVELT STRING BAND APPEARS AT BENEFIT CONCERT

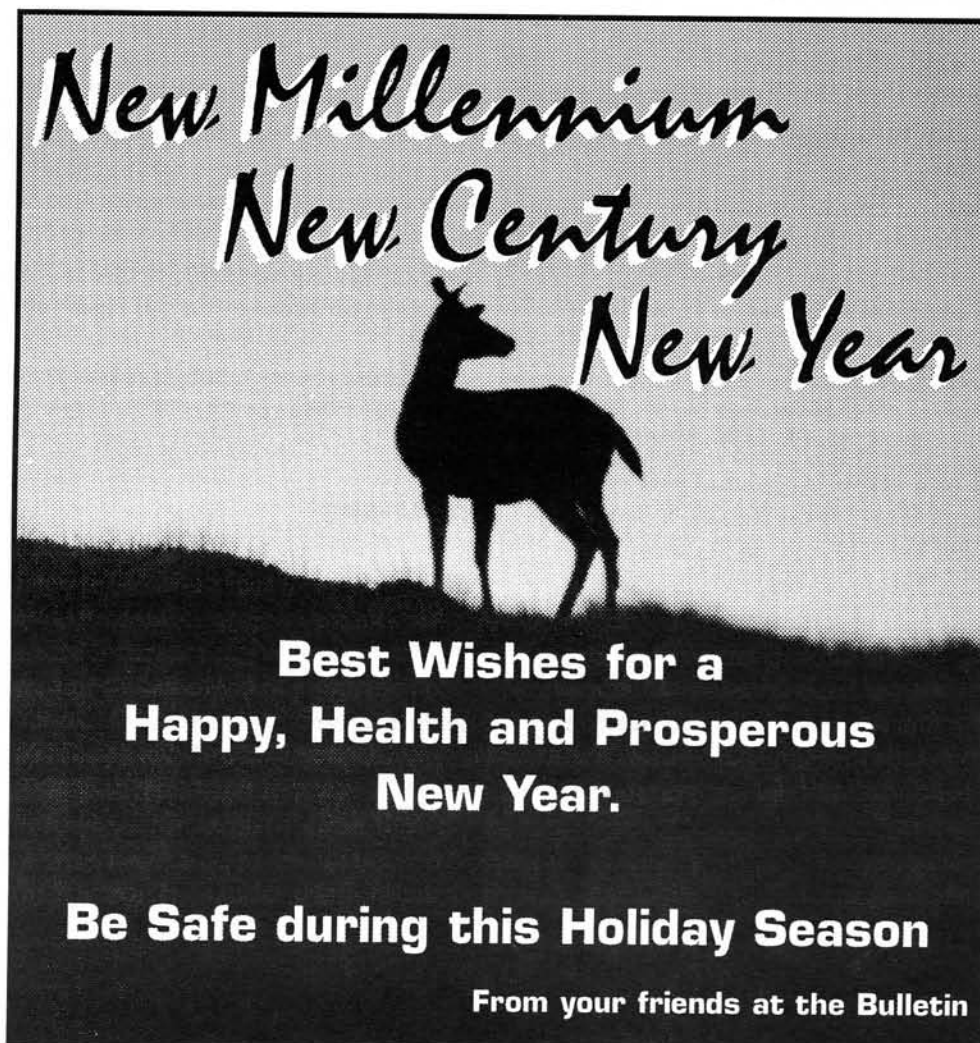
by Mary Tulloss

On Saturday night, October 23rd, the Roosevelt String Band (minus newest member Howie Jacobson) gave a performance at the Roosevelt Public School to benefit the Fund for Roosevelt which was established earlier this year as a non-profit corporation supporting open space and farmland preservation. A large crowd of adults and children from Roosevelt and the surrounding area were treated to a wonderful evening of music by David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Paul Prestopino and Judy Trachtenberg. The talent, love of music and camaraderie among the band members made for another inspired performance by this group of people who give so much to our town.

time were swaying to the music of Woody Guthrie, John Denver, Iris DeMent and other favorites of the band members. I really loved their performance of "Our Town" by Iris Dement, first presented at the String Band concert in April. This song poignantly depicts a town facing many of the changes that face Roosevelt today.

Since I was also setting up refreshments, making coffee etc., I didn't get to make any notes about the music or record any song titles. I think that David Herrstrom summed it up well when he suggested that I "just say the Band was terrific. You should have been there." They were. You would have loved it. ■

Long time fans and some hearing the band for the first



NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

WELCOME NEW NEIGHBORS:

The Perez-Ortiz family, Angel and Mary Ann with their children Juan, Christina and Joey who moved into the former Savage house on Homestead Lane.

Mateo and Rosa Ramos with their children Erica, Francis and Gabriel who moved into the former Craig house on Homestead Lane.

Bruce and Barbara Pernitza who moved into the former Brottman house on North Rochdale with their son, Bruce Jr. (age 19).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FAMILIES OF:

Owen Charles Tulloss born July 4 to Alison and Mark Tulloss of Philadelphia, PA. The proud grandparents are Mary and Rod Tulloss of Lake Drive, and Marta and Bob Gordon of Jupiter Island, Florida. The proud aunt is Sarah Tulloss. Owen received a floral bouquet from Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell in honor of his historic birth date.

Gabrielle Paige Block born November 5 to Mary Ann and Joseph Block of Lake Drive. Gabrielle was welcomed by her big sister Alissa (16) and brothers and Nicholas Gates (13) and Adam Benjamin Block (2 yrs.). The proud grandparents are: Linda and Michael Block of Lake Drive, and Mary Ann and Edward Prinke of Howell.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Former resident and RPS kindergarten and music teacher Ilse Riesenfeld, who is now active as a poet as well as a pianist, will be a featured reader at the Barnes & Noble poetry session scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 18 (at the Route 9 store, across from Freehold Raceway Mall). Ilse will read selections from her recently published book, *Silver-Haired Thoughts*.

Dr. Alex Antoniou of Lake Drive, who gave a conference sponsored by the Shark Research Institute of Princeton to Honduran officials. His presentation, Banning Whale Shark Fishing in Honduran Waters, was so effective that the Honduran Minister of Agriculture made an immediate decree making Whale Shark fishing illegal in

Honduran waters.

Also, Dr. Antoniou is the recipient of two national honors presented by Aquatics International Magazine for his work as Director of the Rutgers Aquatic Program. Watch for Alex as a guest of Shark Week on the Discovery Channel in August 2000.

Mark Zuckerman whose *Proverbs for Four at Fifty*, settings in Hebrew for a cappella chorus of four verses from Mishle (Book of Proverbs), will be premiered by the Gregg Smith singers at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 22, 2000 at St. Peter's Church in the Citicorp Center, Lexington Avenue at 54th Street in Manhattan. Also on the program entitled *Settings From the Old Testament*, will be *In The Beginning* by Aaron Copeland and a setting of *Adon Olam* by Lucas Foss.

Ina Clark who has been chosen as a member of the Monmouth Battlefield Preparatory Orchestra.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

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

The First Aid Squad needs members. The squad pays for training. For information call Herb Johnson 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:

A special welcome to Kathy Dileo, the new school secretary.

September students of the Month in Health: Lawrence Mendies, Casey Ward, Ian Parsons, Adam Adlerman, David Atwood, Andrew Unger and Emily Silverstein.

September Students of the Month in Physical Education: Shannon Towle, Robert Lancaster, Joseph Zahora, Ryan Grasso, Allison Mitchell, Matthew Lawson and Lauralee Ward.

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

FROM KREPS MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Ina Clark is First Chair Clarinet in the 7th grade band.

FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH:

Molly Petrilla was elected to the Homecoming Court representing the Sophomore Class.

FROM FRANKLIN & MARSHALL COLLEGE:

Freshman Kathleen Alfare is First Flute in the F&M Symphonic Wind Ensemble.

ON A NEW NOTE:

Mary Tulloss will be taking over Neighborhood Notes. So in the future, send items for the column to her at; P.O. Box 57, Roosevelt, NJ 08555; E-MAIL: mtulloss@njcc.com, or phone 448-5096.

Always include a contact name & number. ■

CALENDAR *Continued from Page 28*

5	Wed.	10 A.M.	TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182	19	Wed.	trees on curb for pick up RECYCLING
8	Sat.	8 p.m.	RAP Program, Poetry, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867		10 a.m	Christmas tree pick up TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182
12	Wed.	10 a.m.	RECYCLING TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182	20	Thurs. 7:30 p.m.	PTA meeting, RPS, JoAnne Parker, Pres., 448-5619
13	Thurs	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Tree Pick-up Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Karen Minutolo, Board Secretary, 448-2798	26	Wed.	RECYCLING RPS Four Hour Session, Professional development
15	Sat.		Deadline for Borough Bulletin articles		10 a.m.	TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182
17	Mon.		Martin Luther King Day RPS Closed Borough Hall closed	27	Thurs. 7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Karen Minutolo, Board Secretary, 448-2798 ■
18	Tues.		Evening, place Christman			

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. ■

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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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December Events

3	Fri.		RPS Pizza Day
4	Sat.		Hanukkah
6	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Michael Stiles, Pres. 426-4185
7	Tues.	1 p.m.	Blood Pressure Check - Borough Hall
		2 p.m.	Seniors Meeting-Borough Hall
8	Wed.		RECYCLING
		10 a.m.	TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182
		8 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Joseph Zahora, 426-4187
11	Sat.	7:30 p.m.	RAP Program, An Evening of Storytelling, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867
13	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Lee R. Allen, Mayor, 448-6978
14	Tues	7 p.m.	Parent/staff Choir Practice, RPS, Heather Philhower, 448-2798
15	Wed.	10 a.m.	TaiChi Class June Counterman, 338-3182
		8 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Wayne Cokeley, 443-6287
16	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, Karen Minutolo, Board Secretary, 448-2798
17	Fri.		RPS Pizza Day
20	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Michael Ticktin, 448-0363
		7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Michael Stiles, Pres., 426-4185

22	Fri.	10 a.m.	RECYCLING TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182
23	Thurs.		RPS Four-hour Session, Winter Vacation Begins
24	Fri.		RPS Closed, Winter Vacation Borough Hall Closed
25	Sat.		Christmas
27	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Michael Stiles, Pres., 426-4185
			RPS Closed, Winter Vacation
28	Tues.		RPS Closed, Winter Vacation
29	Wed.	10 a.m.	RECYCLING TaiChi Class, June Counterman, 448-3182
30	Thurs.	RPS	Closed, Winter Vacation
31	Fri.		New Year's Eve RPS Closed, Winter Vacation Borough Hall Closed

January Events

(PARTIAL LISTING AS WE KNOW IT NOW)

3	Mon.		RPS Winter Vacation Ends, Back to School!
4	Tues.		Evening, place Christmas trees on curb for pick up
5	Wed.		RECYCLING Christmas tree pick-up

Continued on Page 25

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