

# Bulletin

24

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February 2001

## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

### Council Reorganizes; New Attorney and Finance Officer Appointed

By Michael Ticktin

The Council held its 2001 reorganization meeting on January 2. Newly-elected councilmen Neil Marko and Jeff Hunt together with Councilwoman Judith Trachtenberg and Mayor Michael Hamilton, now constitute a majority of the Council, which is of significance because of the similar positions they have taken on development issues and other matters that have been the subject of council debate in recent years. In contrast to last year, when the Council rejected Mayor Hamilton's nominee for municipal attorney and re-appointed John Ross, the Council this time approved without objection the appointment of a new municipal attorney, Douglas Kovats of Red Bank.

The Mayor also changed the composition of the Planning Board, appointing Ralph Seligman and Jane Rothfuss, both of whom had served as alternates this past year, to replace Paul Henry and Lou Esakoff as Class IV (public) members. He also re-appointed Michael Ticktin as the

Class II (official) member and appointed David Ticktin, who is a member of the Board of Education, as an alternate. Neil Marko was elected by the Council to replace Harry Parker as the Class III member.

Robin Kirk, the new Chief Financial Officer of Millstone Township, was appointed to serve in that position in Roosevelt as well. She replaced Ed Debevec, who also served in both municipalities.

In his annual message to the Council, Mayor Hamilton thanked former council members Rose Murphy and Paul Hoogsteden for their service to the Borough and paid tribute to all those who have given of their time and effort to make Roosevelt the sort of community that it is. He pledged to continue his efforts to govern the Borough with care and good planning.

At the regular monthly meeting of January 16, the Mayor further commended Michael Farr, our public works employee, and Councilman George Vasseur for their outstanding work in the aftermath of the recent snowstorm. Councilman Vasseur worked to clear the streets without any compensation. The Mayor also asked that everyone who is able to do so cooperate in keeping sidewalks clear, particularly on School Lane, and in helping seniors and others who are unable to do their own snow removal.

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

The editors and trustees of the Bulletin would like to wish all of our readers and supporters a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year, New Century and New Millennium. With your cooperation and support, we shall continue to do our part to help preserve all that is best in Roosevelt while working to build a better community for us all.

- Michael Ticktin

“The nice part about living in a small town is that when you don't know what you're doing, someone else does.”

- Erma Bombeck

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Calendar & Breaking Bread art by Shan Ellentuck

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# FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

New Jersey Law [N.J.S.A. 40A:60-5], states that "the mayor shall be the head of the municipal government" and "shall recommend to the Council such measures as he may deem necessary or expedient for the welfare of the borough."

By Mayor Michael B. Hamilton

**R**oosevelt 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..."

Public bodies are required by law to "reorganize" themselves annually. This is the meeting when the Council reforms itself, establishing meeting dates and times and appointing advisors such as the Borough Attorney and Chief Financial Officer. Appointments to the various boards and commissions, such as the Planning Board and Environmental Commission are often announced at this meeting. New Council members are sworn in, and committees are formed.

On January 2, 2001, the Roosevelt Borough government held its annual reorganization meeting. During the reorganization meeting of the Roosevelt Borough Council, I gave the Mayor's State of the Borough Address to the Council and about 40 members of the public who were in attendance. Since many members of the public could not be present, I have reprinted it in this month's Bulletin.

## State of the Borough Address

**Changes in the Borough Government:** I would like to thank outgoing Council member Paul Hoogsteden and express my thanks to Councilwoman Rose Murphy for her years of dedicated service to the community. I would also like to welcome our two new Councilmen, Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko, who were sworn in for three-year terms during this meeting.

Under our form of government, we have six Council members who serve three-year terms, and a Mayor who is elected for a four-year term. Two three-year Council terms expire each year. This form of government has been

nicknamed "the strong council-weak mayor" form of government because the Mayor cannot vote unless there is a tie vote among those present during an action meeting, thus the term "weak mayor".

The Council now consists of Harry Parker, Council President (D), and John Towle (R) whose terms expire 12/31/01. George Vasseur (R) and Judy Trachtenberg (D) whose terms expire 12/31/02, and newly elected Councilmen Neil Marko (D) and Jeff Hunt (D) whose terms expire on 12/31/03.

**Changes in Borough Staff:** Over the last year, we experienced some changes in Borough staff. Nancy Warnick left to go to work in Millstone. Just as we said a regretful goodbye to Nancy, we welcomed our new Deputy Clerk, Dee Cantalese. We hired new Public Works employee, Mike Farr. We have received letters of resignation from our zoning officer, John Reuter, and our long-time Chief Financial Officer, Ed Debevec. To replace Ed, we hired a new CFO, Robin Kirk. I want to thank Krystyna Olejnik, our Borough Clerk, for holding the fort through this time of change.

**Managing our Borough Finances:** I am a businessman and I recognize the need for well-studied financial management. In business, in order to gauge how healthy an enterprise is, you look at its financials. I began my term of office in January 2000 by analyzing our borough finances and investment policies.

The "cash flow" of our town is important because the Borough collects and holds taxes for the school and the county as well as the municipality. School taxes consume about 75 cents of every Roosevelt tax dollar, and we pay around 11 cents of every tax dollar to the County. This means that only about 14 cents of every Roosevelt tax dollar goes to provide municipal services administered by the Mayor and Council. In 1999, the borough held between 3 million and 1.5 million dollars in its bank accounts at any given point in time.

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## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

*Continued from Page 3*

We hold this money in our borough accounts before it is distributed. Because there is so much money held in these accounts, the interest earned on this money is an important source of revenue for any municipality.

In 1999, the Borough earned roughly \$32,000 in interest on all of the money held in our municipal bank accounts.

Last January, when I began my term as Mayor, I took the following actions:

- I interviewed our banking representatives.
- I reviewed statements and reports and I asked many questions. I was trying to understand why we earned so little interest on our borough bank accounts. I was told that no one had ever asked these questions before.
- I issued a report on my findings to the Council.
- I recommended changes that were instituted early in the year.

Because of these actions, we earned more than \$72,000 in interest in only ten months of the year 2000 and we ended the year earning around \$80,000 interest. This is an increase of almost \$50,000 in interest earned over the prior year.

While this is good news for Roosevelt taxpayers it also means that we may have missed an opportunity to earn as much as a half million dollars in interest revenue during the past ten years. This is enough money to dig a new well and upgrade our water supply system without raising water/sewer rates. This businesslike approach to managing our local government's finances must be continued in the new year.

After my examination of our town's banking practices I:

- Recommended that the Council follows the School Board's lead and takes advantage of the free audit and recommendations offered by the State of New Jersey's Local Government Finance Review Board.
- Reviewed our purchasing and spending practices and I recommended changes that are yet to be made. We must be more diligent in complying with State-mandated purchasing procedures.
- Recommended the establishment of local spending guidelines. As it currently stands, each Council member can spend up to the State limit of \$17,500 on his/her signature. We need to control spending carefully. No Council member should be able to spend that amount of public funds without consulting with

the Council and the public.

I look forward to the Council acting on these recommendations in the year ahead.

**The Costs of Development:** When I began my term as Mayor I inherited the challenge of defending two lawsuits from a landowner related to development in the land near the cemetery, governed by our PCD 1 ordinance.

Although State law requires developers to pay for the costs associated with their proposals, the developer involved in this proposal has not yet paid the \$10,000 or more in reimbursable expenses owed the Borough. We must act to recoup these expenses this year.

The previous administration's attempts to facilitate development through changes in our land-use ordinances had the net effect of costing Roosevelt taxpayers more than \$50,000 in legal fees and other (non-reimbursable) expenses last year alone.

### **Working Together for Lower Taxes**

During my first year in office:

- I frequently met with our State representatives to request direct aid for Roosevelt taxpayers.
- I coordinated our contacts with the Board of Education. By working together, our efforts have begun to pay off for our citizens.
- Last year we were able to get an additional \$93,000 aid package for the school, a portion of which has been applied for immediate tax relief.
- We received a \$30,000 grant to form a recreation and education program for our at-risk children and others.
- We obtained a \$25,000 public works grant to replace an aging heating system and a leaking roof on the Borough Hall, and to install new carpets in the building.
- We received a GIS (Geographical Information Survey) grant that for the first time in our history has provided us with detailed maps of the Borough.
- We have applied for a \$111,000 grant, which will provide funding for a Capital Improvements Plan.
- We obtained a \$75,000 grant through our Assemblyman Joe Malone to conduct a regionalization study with other Western Monmouth County school districts.

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# PLANNING BOARD NEWS

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## New Board Awaits Notterman Tract Decision

By Bob Clark

The Roosevelt Planning Board reorganized on January 3, but as of the Bulletin deadline in mid-January, it was still awaiting a decision by Superior Court Judge William Gilroy in the Notterman tract litigation. The question of whether to release to the public a settlement proposal the Board submitted to the property's owners, Daniel and Abby Notterman, remained unresolved. Meanwhile, two new faces joined the Board.

The Council appointed newly elected Borough Council member Neil Marko to replace Harry Parker as its representative on the Board. Mayor Michael Hamilton elevated Ralph Seligman and Jane Rothfuss from the two alternate positions to full members serving four-year terms. They replaced Paul Henry and Louis Esakoff. Mayor Hamilton re-appointed Michael Ticktin to a one-year term as the public official member. He also serves as the Borough's Tax Assessor. Mayor Hamilton also appointed David Ticktin, a School Board member and Michael Ticktin's cousin, to one of the vacated alternate positions. The second alternate position remains vacant.

The Board re-elected Gail Hunton Chairwoman and Joseph Zahora Vice Chairman. Ann Kassahun was re-elected Corresponding Secretary.

Board members remained divided over whether to make available to the public a written settlement proposal forwarded to the Nottermans in mid-2000. The Nottermans rejected the proposal and went to trial before Judge Gilroy in their lawsuit against the Planning Board. The Nottermans dispute the Board's October 1999 denial of an application by the Matzel and Mumford Organization (M&M) to carve out 65 residential building lots on the Nottermans' 110-acre tract, located between the Solar Village and the Cemetery. The Council's zoning decisions concerning the property were severed from the trial, which took place on November 14. After the two-hour trial, based mostly on arguments concerning the record before the Planning Board, Judge Gilroy reserved decision. Judge Gilroy has never been informed of the contents of the Board's settlement proposal and would not consider any such proposal when making his decision.

The Board's attorney, Michele Donato, has advised the Board not to release the settlement proposal to the public since the Nottermans' attorney has objected to its release. At the Board's December 7 meeting, Michael Ticktin's

motion to make the document public after Judge Gilroy decides the case failed on a tie (3-3) vote. Mr. Ticktin, Mr. Esakoff and Kate John-Alder voted in favor of the motion. Ms. Hunton, Mr. Seligman and Mr. Parker voted against the motion. Mayor Hamilton, Mr. Henry, Mr. Zahora, Ms. Rothfuss and Mark Roberts were not present.

At the January 3 reorganization meeting, Michael Ticktin renewed his motion. Initially, Mayor Hamilton seconded the motion. Ms. Rothfuss noted that since the settlement proposal is not before Judge Gilroy, it is "not really accurate that [its disclosure] would weaken our case." David Ticktin complained that "everybody knows the details [of the settlement proposal] except our taxpayers." Ms. Hunton claimed that the planned community development ordinance governing the Notterman tract provides insight as to the contents of the settlement proposal, since the Board adhered to the requirements of the ordinance when drafting the proposal. She said she had not discussed with Ms. Donato whether the proposal could be released after Judge Gilroy decides the case. When Ms. Hunton added that she would ask Ms. Donato to attend the next meeting to address the issue, Mayor Hamilton withdrew his second of the disclosure motion. David Ticktin then seconded the motion. Michael Ticktin then modified the motion to postpone decision of the issue until the February 7 meeting after Ms. Donato articulates any benefits and detriments that might result from releasing the settlement proposal to the public. As modified, the motion passed unanimously.

In other reorganization activity, the Board decided to hold its regular meetings on the first Wednesday of each month. The newspapers selected to publish official notices are the *Asbury Park Press* and the *Messenger-Press*. The Board continued the firm of Clarke Caton Hintz as its planning consultant for three months, with Mr. Seligman as the sole negative vote.

Ms. Hunton asked Board members to review 41 pages of draft Planning Board rules prepared by Ms. Donato. The Board will discuss the proposed rules at its February 7 meeting and possibly adopt them with any revisions. The Board also carried its review of Borough parking ordinances over until February 7. It is awaiting Henry John-Alder's preparation of a proposed methodology for surveying the parking problem in Roosevelt.

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# SCHOOL NEWS

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## From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

I hope that the year 2001 brings everyone health and prosperity. We began the new Year with our annual winter concert, January 18th. Soon after the concert Mr. John Dingle will be leaving his position as music teacher, and we welcome Mr. Kevin Mullane. Good luck to both of them.

Are you in search of a good New Years Resolution? Think about this: What's on the menu at your house tonight? If you're like two-thirds of families it's not dinner tonight. Yet shared meals are a great way to strengthen families. If you fall into the pattern of not finding time to share meals, here are a few tips:

- Start small. Plan two or three a week, then gradually add more times together.
- Extend dinnertime. Have kids help with cooking and cleanup. It's a great way to spend extra time together.
- Be positive. Keep conversation pleasant and upbeat.
- Improvise. Family "dinners" don't always have to be

dinners. Try a weekend breakfast or lunch.

- Turn off the TV and phone. Make conversation the main course.

We have had a very positive response to our Reading Encouragement Program in the library. On Wednesday evenings, students are invited to add body parts to Bernie Bookworm. With each book they read, the students complete a brief form. The form becomes part of Bernie's body, and the students have a chance to enter their names in a drawing for a prize. Thanks to the generosity of some neighborhood vendors, prizes will include gift certificates to Perkins, Fridays and the Regal Movies. The first prize winners will be drawn at our school assembly on Thursday morning January 25. I am especially grateful to our volunteer librarians who allow us to continue our library program on Wednesday evenings.

The Roosevelt Board of Education prepared its first Newsletter, which was mailed to the entire community. In

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## RCNS News

By Ginny Weber

**A**s we started our new year, the students of RCNS also made New Year's resolutions. We also made bells and birthday cakes to welcome 2001 as well.

Since the winter season is truly upon us, January was a wonderful month to learn about the Arctic. We learned how people and animals live there, and about the climate of the region. We made polar bears and penguins.

To celebrate Ben Franklin's birth on January 17, 1706, our class learned about many of his achievements. We conducted an experiment to understand about static electricity. Since Franklin was America's first postmaster, we studied how we get mail. The class had a wonderful visit at the Roosevelt Post Office to see how the post office works.

At the end of January we celebrated Chinese New Year. The children loved to see what animals represent their birth years. We made Chinese lanterns and dragons too. We culminated our celebration with a parade. The children learned how to say Happy New Year in Chinese - Gung Hay Fat Choo.

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February is National Wild Bird Feeding Month so we are making bird feeders to hang outside our homes so we can enjoy watching our bird friends. We will learn more about hibernation and camouflage.

We will celebrate Valentine's Day by making valentines for our families and exchanging with our friends. We will make animals out of hearts as well. The children will listen to their own hearts with a stethoscope and learn how to keep their hearts healthy.

We will dedicate a week to our presidents and make log cabins and cherry trees. What would you do if you could be president? The children will give us their answers.

February is also National Dental Health month. The students will learn about good dental hygiene and even visit a dentist's office!

Our Heart 'n Soul dinner dance is on Saturday, February 10th. I hope to see some new faces as well as the same ones as last year. We're sure to have a great time! ■

## Of Grandfathers

By Bernarda Bryson Shahn

**M**y Grandfather Bryson when he was a young man worked as a farm hand for my Grandfather Weethee, who was a fairly elderly man. My Grandfather Bryson was a person of what I would call average height, that is to say that he might have been something under six feet tall. My Grandfather Weethee, however, was of exceptional height, being, I'm told some six feet three or four inches tall.

One day my two grandfathers, walking through the fields together, came upon Sunday Creek, a wide stream that flows through what was once my Grandfather Weethee's land in Ohio. From the place where they stopped, called "The Ford", a person on foot could ordinarily cross the stream with dry feet simply by stepping on the high stones that stuck up above the water, then onto the sand bar and up the opposite bank.

On this occasion, however, the water was high and Grandfather Weethee ordered my Grandfather Bryson to take him on his back and carry him to the other side.

It is difficult to picture just how this arrangement was carried out. Grandfather Bryson, however, did somehow get the larger man onto his back, and waded into the stream. When they were about halfway across, Grandfather Bryson stopped and said, "Well, Mr. Withey, I guess this is about as far as I'm goin'." He put Grandfather Weethee down into the middle of the water and walked home.

Many stories emerged from this event, but the story itself was some part of the childhood lore that my



sister and I carried with us throughout our youth. We simplified things: Grandfather Bryson, who by now owned a wood-planing mill, an outstanding grayish moustache and a gold tooth, was our "Good Grandfather". Grandfather Weethee, whom we had never seen (he had died many years before) but who had so rudely and unjustly treated our other grandfather, was simply our "Bad Grandfather".

One thing about our "Bad Grandfather" that we loved was his old house, already perhaps a hundred years old. We loved especially the attic - a long room that stretched across the entire building - and that was full of old furniture, old bookcases, trunks full of strange clothing from some other long gone era.

One day my sister and I were playing in the attic, as usual. I was sitting under a window reading an old copy of "The Youth's companion". She was scrounging around near a huge brick chimney.

She called to me, "Come here, I found something."

I rushed over to where she stood looking down at the floor. At her feet was an iron ring perhaps some eight to ten inches across and incised into the wood of the floor. "Wow", I said,

"What's that?"

"I don't know", she said. "I tried to lift it up - it moved a little bit. You try it."

I pulled at the ring, then we both pulled it. Out of the floor a sort of door opened up - just a few inches - and out of the open space dust, dead bugs, cold air.

We dropped the door - stared at each other. "Don't tell Mama," my sister said.

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## Two Square Miles Of Stories

by Bess Tremper

**E**veryone in our two-square mile town has old family photographs and memories of the people in them. These pictures and your memories are narratives waiting to enrich us all. So, join us in a Roosevelt Show and Tell project - find an old picture or two and tell us a story in a few paragraphs.

For information, telephone:

Robin Gould	448-4616
Marilyn Magnes	448-6402
Pearl Seligman	448-2340 ■

## Farmland Preservation Update

By Rod and Mary Tulloss

As most readers know, Gov. Christie Whitman came to Roosevelt on December 19th to sign an \$8.3 million farmland preservation appropriations bill. While most of the money provided by that bill was for preservation of farmland in other counties, a portion completed appropriations for the state's share of the purchase of development rights on the Fund for Roosevelt's 240 acre project on the west side of Rochdale Avenue (Route 571). With appropriations for the shares of Monmouth County and Millstone Township already in place, the time is drawing near for completion of purchase of the farmland from its current owners. Roosevelt's share of the cost is being provided by the Fund from generous donations against price made by owners of two lots-the Cuzzolino family and Ann and Anna Nurko.

The Fund for Roosevelt has held options to buy the farms for a year. At the end of January, it will be necessary to exercise the contracts; and, then the Fund will have 90 days to close on the land. At the closing the current owners receive payment for their land. In our case, more than 80% of this payment comes from the state, county, and municipal sources-in excess of \$2.9 million. As a result of this government expenditure, Monmouth

County will own an easement that restricts the land to agricultural use forever. The rest of the money needed for purchase of the properties (less than \$700,000) is planned to come from their immediate resale.

Resale of the farm north of Nurko Road has been agreed for some time. The prospective new owner, a resident of Manalapan, has arranged to rent this property to the Israeli government with the plan of growing heirloom vegetables for sale to high end restaurants in New York City. The new owner has also agreed to grant easements to the Fund for Roosevelt protecting the unplowed areas of the property (forest, springs, seeps, etc.) in their present state.

No buyer for the farm south of Nurko Road has been identified although current prospects are interested in using the land for horses.

It is expected that homes and agricultural structures will be built on both properties. Homes will be restricted to designated acres (one acre on each farm) near the Millstone Township border and separated from the nearest existing homes by wooded areas or hedgerows. These acres have

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## Of Grandfathers

*Continued from Page 7*

But we did tell Mama, and Grandma, neither of whom could tell us one mite about this door and this opening.

My mother's sister, ten years older than she just happened to arrive for a visit to Grandma. She came up the attic stairs, saw us all standing there.

"Oh!" Aunt Emma cried, "You've found it! You kids are pretty smart, but I can tell you all about that ring and that hole. It isn't a hole, you know - it's a sort of stair. My father told me all about it."

"You see," she said, "when your Grandfather Weethee was a young man, there was still slavery - mostly in the south - you know, people who belonged to other people. Their life was very cruel - and they often ran away. People up here, like us, didn't believe in slavery at all. We felt sorry for the slaves - poor desperate people trying to run away. People like Father wanted to help them.

"They would come through at night, the runaways - in a wagon, covered up with hay, and Father was always ready to take them in. There was always food for them, some clean cloths, if possible, a clean blanket. Papa always gave them a little money to take along when they left. They would stay down in that space near the chimney - where they wouldn't get cold.

"This whole thing you know, was very dangerous. If you got caught hiding any slaves or helping them in any way, you could go to prison. Father knew that, but he did it anyway. You've probably heard about that great movement - they called it 'The Underground Railway'."

"The Underground Railway!" my sister cried out. "That's history, right?"

"Oh, yes," said Aunt Emma.

Then my sister said, "Do you mean right here, in this very place - right here where we're standing - the very actual Underground Railway?"

"Yes, exactly right here," Aunt Emma said. ■



## News From Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Department and First Aid Squad

By Jack Rindt

**O**n Sunday, the 10th of December 2000, at 10:30 a.m., the Roosevelt Volunteer Fire Department conducted training on Hazardous Materials Awareness. This training meets OSHA requirements of 1910.120 and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 471.

Areas that the training was about:

- Using caution around Hazardous Materials incidents.
- How to size up the situation.
- Importance of calling for help.
- Securing the area to protect others.

On Sunday, the 14th of January 2001, at 10:30 a.m., the Roosevelt Fire and First Aid Squad had combined training in Bloodborne Pathogens.

The training lasted two hours. This class is mandated training by the State of New Jersey, Division of Fire Safety and by OSHA.

Members of the First Aid Squad were able to receive continuing education units or CEU's.

The next time that training will be conducted will be on Sunday, February 18th, at 10:30 a.m.

At the Roosevelt Borough Hall on Sunday, February 25th, at 9:00 a.m., the Roosevelt First Aid Squad will be holding a C.P.R. training session for the Professional Rescuer re-certification. The cost of the course is \$5.00. This course is through the American Red Cross. Any questions on the C.P.R. course, please contact Jack Rindt at 448-9475 or P.O. Box 41. ■

## Library News

By Helen Barth

**B**ooks can now be ordered from the main branch of the Monmouth County Library for delivery to our local library. Just phone in your request with your library card number to 732-431-7220.

If you don't have a new green library card, applications can be obtained during library hours, Wednesday evening 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and Thursday afternoons 12:15 - 1:15 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!**

## Senior News

By Herb Johnson

**T**he Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club met for regular business and social meeting on Tuesday, December 5, with 17 members present. A sing-along of five old-time songs took place and then Herb Johnson sang a new song about the club's time in September at the Garden State Arts Center when Barbara Cook sang songs of Broadway and Hollywood. Clare Sacharoff served refreshments. The regular third Tuesday mall shopping trip was to the Quakerbridge Mall with lunch at the Olive Garden. Twelve went to the Hunterdon Hills Playhouse on Saturday the 16th for the show and lunch.

The January 2 meeting was to be a potluck lunch after the business meeting, but it was cancelled due to an expected snow storm. The County could not provide a bus for the January mall shopping trip, so some of the club members drove four car loads, 15 members, to the Mediterranean Diner for breakfast followed by a movie.

The next meeting is to be Tuesday, February 6, at 1:00 p.m. All Roosevelt senior citizens are welcome to attend. ■

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# NATURAL ROOSEVELT

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## Native Plants, Deer, Gardens, and Butterflies

By Rod Tulloss

**T**here are three items I want to treat before we get closer to Spring planting season: (1) results of experiments with native plants supposedly resistant to deer, (2) alternative plants to replace foreign invasives in landscaping, and (3) plants that will increase the variety of other life in Roosevelt.

**Year 2000 Deer-Resistant Plant Experiments.** Single plants of a number of supposedly deer-resistant species were nibbled to death (probably not by ducks) in my experiments last year. It remains to be seen if they will reappear in 2001. All plants were left fully accessible to deer. (Placing a wire dome over any small plants is probably a good idea. I've seen it work very well for Lady Slipper at a friend's house outside Princeton. Remember when we had plentiful Pink Lady Slipper here in Roosevelt?)

Virginia Blue Bells, diverse Milkweeds, Obedience (also called False Dragonhead), and Wild Hydrangea continue to be a success as do ferns. Mary and I planted Witch Hazel several years ago because we love the late winter flowering. Now, it is woody enough to do with less protection; however, the new shoots are a temptation to deer. Wild Geranium again survived the flowering season, but suffered some browsing damage. On the other hand, a single plant of Shooting Star (supposedly not deer-resistant) apparently escaped notice.

I had high hopes for Wild Indigo. Apparently, no single deer wanted to eat very much of it; but over the whole year, it was eventually nibbled to the ground. Since this is one plant that is an important food plant for butterflies (see below), I think I'll try again in a wetter place and with protection from deer.

Talking of wetter places, the strange and beautiful *Jeffersonia diphylla* (sometimes called Twayblade) survived without damage in a wetland area.

**Landscaping Alternatives.** When invasive plants are removed, it is necessary to replace them; or some new invasive will take advantage of the disturbed soil and introduce itself. When removing a shrub like Japanese Barberry, Burning Bush (*Euonymus*), Japanese Honeysuckle, Autumn Olive, or Multiflora Rose (Rambler

Rose), a native shrub with colorful berries, beautiful flowers, or beautiful foliage can be used as a replacement. Among these natives are Strawberry Bush (a good replacement for Burning Bush), American Holly, Spicebush (the plant on which Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies lay their eggs), a native species of Viburnum such as Maple-Leaf Viburnum or Arrowwood, Highbush Blueberry, Wild Hydrangea, and Native Red Chokeberry (*Aronia arbutifolia*), which has a beautiful garden form called "Brilliantissima." The Nature Conservancy also suggests that gardeners seek noninvasive exotics such as Korean Spice Viburnum (*Viburnum carlesii*). The New Jersey Native Plant Society is a good source of further information, or you might wish to review the illustrated information at the following website:

<http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/>

**Planting to Increase the Variety of Butterflies.** Until recently, I did not know that the North American Butterfly

*Continued on Page 13*

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### Farmland Preservation Update

*Continued from Page 8*

been selected so that no trees will need to be cut to build homes. The prospective owner of the northern farm has agreed to limit the area under surfaces that don't allow rain to sink into the soil - driveways, buildings, etc. This will ensure that much of the existing viewshed is retained.

Title search and survey of the properties has been completed by the county, a check for soil pollution is being carried out by a contractor for the Fund. Besides coordinating the somewhat complicated closing (three sellers, the Fund, the state, the county, Millstone, and two ultimate buyers will all be represented), FFR is still fund raising and seeking a buyer for the southern farm. With regard to fund raising, only \$18,000 of the \$40,000 sought in the current drive has been donated; so there is still work to be done in that area.

The Fund's Trustees are looking forward to the conclusion of two years of hard work and the satisfaction that Roosevelt residents can be assured of that special feeling they have as they drive into town past familiar woods and farmland on the west side and know they are home. ■

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# LETTERS

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To the Community,

November 18 - 25 was the most intense and incredible week of my life. That week marked COP 6 (Conference of the Parties, the sixth round of negotiations) in which 180 countries involved in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change convened in Hague, Netherlands. Although the negotiations fell through at the last minute without an agreement being reached, it is my understanding that no deal is better than a treaty full of loopholes. There is a COP 6.5 planned for May 2001 in Bonn, Germany. The next six months will be crucial for ensuring a strong Kyoto Protocol that resonates environmental integrity.

My week at the Congress Center was spent participating in our student press conference, where all 225 students were present. Four student representatives were elected to voice their concerns to our U.S. delegation. We also attended various other conferences, open discussions, lobbied and participated in various actions aimed to influence the negotiations. One action in particular was the sand bagging of the Congress Center, headed by Friends of the Earth, using 5,000 sandbags and thousands of European and American activists' hands to send a message about the countries that will be affected by rising sea levels and the dikes that will need to be constructed.

I feel that our role was that of a moral compass and conscience and that in that role, we were able to keep the negotiations from taking a disastrously wrong turn. Thinking back to our last day in the Congress Center where 225 students along with members from the EU (European Union), gathered on the central stairway and chanted "EU Stand strong" renewed and perhaps reinforced the decision on the EU.

Along with our "EU Stand Strong" chant, I found myself singing perhaps even crying out another chant: "Earth my body, Water my blood, Air my breath and Fire my spirit." "The Sky is our Limit, Remember why we are here, to cut our Emissions we must be Sincere." The energy which filled the Congress Center at that moment was personally very rejuvenating. I can't describe enough how refreshing it was to be surrounded by so many passionate, alive and aware individuals working towards a common goal, or more appropriately a global goal.

To view my WEB page, go to [www.ecoworld.com](http://www.ecoworld.com) and click on Victoria's ventures.

Inspired and full of wonder,

Victoria Estok ■

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## Planning Board News

*Continued from Page 5*

Ms. Hunton called for the Board to meet with the Council to begin a dialogue on the Borough's upcoming Master Plan revisions. She said that, among other things, the members of the two bodies could "talk about how to involve the public" in discussion of a new Master Plan. Mayor Hamilton said he would raise the issue with the Council.

Mr. Seligman recommended in a December 6 memorandum to Ms. Hunton that Roosevelt's 1999 Master Plan Reexamination Report be updated to include several "overlooked or recently changed considerations." He contended that such an update would focus the planning consultant's attention on important matters necessary to draft properly a Master Plan for Roosevelt. Under Mr. Seligman's guidance, the Board has been working with Millstone Township and T&M Associates of Middletown to obtain a state grant. The money would pay for the study of both municipalities' capital improvement needs.

After being told by outgoing Zoning Officer John Reuter that he would have to seek a variance from lot coverage limits, Michael Block appeared at the Board's December 6 meeting to discuss various building projects that the Board has approved for his lot over the years. After a lengthy discussion noting shortcomings in the zoning ordinance and Board rules governing applications, the Board accepted the situation as a "procedural lesson." It decided to enter for the record drawings prepared for Mr. Block showing cumulative lot coverage by various structures for which he has previously obtained individual Board approvals. This would help guide the Board for any future applications adding impervious surfaces to Mr. Block's lot. Mr. Seligman said the Board should ask the Council to remove ambiguities from the ordinance and update its definitions. ■

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

*Continued from Page 1*

In committee reports, Councilman Neil Marko reported, for the Administrative Committee, that only one resume had been received thus far for the position of Zoning and Code Enforcement Officer. Councilman John Towle reported, for the finance committee, that information for the 2001 budget is now being collected and asked that all requests and recommendations for funding be submitted as soon as possible so that they might be considered.

Councilman Harry Parker, reporting for both the Utilities and the Public Works Committees, announced that bids are solicited for work on well #3 and for chemicals for the water and sewer plants. The contract for the operation of the plants will be up for renewal shortly and it will be necessary for the Council to decide whether or not to continue with AWM, the current operator. Mr. Parker also reported that a \$130,000 grant has been received from the State for the reconstruction of North Valley Road north of Eleanor Lane and that \$28,000 of municipal funds will have to be provided as well.

Reporting for the Community Development Committee, Councilman Jeff Hunt said that he would be contacting members of the Citizen Participation Committee, which reviews proposals for use of block grant funds, to determine which of them wish to continue to serve.

In the public portion of the meeting, Jack Rindt complained about improper paving being done when South Rochdale Avenue was paved several years ago, with the result that the pavement at the corner of his driveway is now deteriorating. Councilman Towle advised that the municipal engineer would be asked to investigate and that any necessary corrective work would be done. He also complained about the condition of the house next to his, which was largely destroyed by fire last summer and has been left in a ruined condition, with debris all about, and is a source of unpleasant odors. Mayor Hamilton assured him that the Borough would consider its option in dealing with the problem.

Bruce Reinbold then spoke about the condition of the former gasoline station. Though all hazardous material has been removed from the building, it remains an attractive nuisance that is full of debris. Michael Tickin, who served last year with Mr. Reimbold, Rod Tulloss and Alan Mallach on a committee looking into the gasoline station situation, argued against continued refusal to take title to the property, contending that we must weigh the remote possibility of a civil suit by a downstream landowner

based upon a hypothetical hydrocarbon plume - made even more hypothetical by the fact that the tanks have already been pumped out by DEP - against the absolute certainty that the building, if not fixed up or removed, will continue to be an ever increasing blight on the community. The municipal attorney was asked to advise as to how to proceed in abating the nuisance and to recommend a prudent course of action with regard to foreclosure on the tax liens held by the Borough. Ralph Seligman agreed to investigate the availability of State grants for brownfields remediation.

Mayor Hamilton announced the committee assignments that have been accepted by Council members. They are as follows, in each case the first person named being the chairperson:

Administrative: Marko, Hunt, Parker  
Finance Administration: Towle, Hunt, Marko  
Utilities: Vasseur, Trachtenberg, Parker  
Public Works: Parker, Vasseur, Towle  
Environment, Health and Safety: Trachtenberg, Vasseur, Marko  
Community Development: Hunt, Trachtenberg, Towle

Councilman Hunt was appointed as Community Development Block Grant representative and Councilman Towle was appointed as the alternate.

The Council also approved a joint application with Millstone for a Municipal Smart Growth Planning Grant from the Department of Community Affairs. Because the application is being made jointly, the cost of the application will be included in the grant if it is approved. ■

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## SCHOOL NEWS

*Continued from Page 6*

the newsletter, information is contained regarding the actions of each committee of the Board of Education. The Newsletter was designed to keep community members well informed regarding the goals and activities of the Board. I encourage everyone to read the Newsletter, and contact Board members should you have any questions or require information. I can easily be reached by e-mail: dweinbach@rpsl.org ■

## NATURAL ROOSEVELT

*Continued from Page 10*

Association is headquartered in New Jersey. I found this information on a visit to Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania when I bought a book (*Butterflies Through Binoculars. A Field and Finding Guide to Butterflies in the Boston-New York-Washington Region* by Jeffrey Glassberg). I was delighted to find it a very rich resource on butterflies in New Jersey and surrounding states. For example, I was amazed to discover that the Assunpink Wildlife Management Area was listed as a place of special interest because of the recent presence of a species that some believe is generally declining in population-the Frosted Elfin.

After reading through the book several times, I took the list of major food plants for caterpillars and compared them to the list of plants in Roosevelt. As you might expect, when I extracted the list of caterpillar dinners that don't grow in Roosevelt, the butterflies dependent on these plants weren't among those that I'd been able to identify in town (not a big list admittedly). Many of our children have raised butterflies in school; some participated in establishing the school's butterfly garden. All these kids have been exposed to the idea that milkweed is a food plant for the caterpillars of Monarch butterflies or that wild cherry leaves are the food of the caterpillars of the Cecropia moth. Quite a few of us have planted milkweeds of various sorts (particularly the perennial Butterfly Weed, an orange flowered milkweed) in our gardens.

I had always believed that spraying for Gypsy Moths had been the major factor causing reduction of butterflies in the twenty-plus years I've lived in Roosevelt. This book made me realize that overgrazing by deer could also be an important (perhaps more important) factor in loss of butterfly variety. The deer clearly eat plants that the butterflies (with very specific dietary requirements) need. That's one more reason to reduce the deer herd by something more effective than simply hunting them and/or to create deer-free areas in our natural lands by fencing off habitat.

What plants could we use to rebuild the butterfly diversity in Roosevelt? Many of them are plants of moist soils, but others grow in dryer forest or grasslands. One example is the Hackberry tree. According to Glassberg, a small group of these will eventually draw the Hackberry Emperor, Tawny Emperor, and American Snout. Wild Indigo is the major food plant for Wild Indigo Duskywing and Frosted Elfin. Nettles, Pipevine, Lupines, Toothworts, New Jersey Tea, Trailing Arbutus, Bearberries, and Cranberries also are favored by certain species.

A list of butterflies and their food plants can be found on the website of the Fund for Roosevelt. Much more information can be found in Glassberg's book and the Audubon, and other, butterfly field guides. If you want to experiment, I make two suggestions-select plants native to the eastern United States and protect the plants from deer while leaving access for butterflies.

Alert! Invasive plants can pose a danger to some butterflies. From the Nature Conservancy, I've learned that Garlic Mustard (plentiful in town and illustrated here) contains chemicals toxic to caterpillars of some native American butterflies. Garlic Mustard is easy to pull up before it goes to seed. Let's get rid of as much of it as we can! The Nature Conservancy recommends that pulled Garlic Mustard be composted and not left lying out where it can poison caterpillars.

Please remember that butterfly collecting (especially commercial collecting, but any collecting of rare species) has exterminated species from important areas of appropriate habitat. Enjoy them alive.

By the way, I wish the Borough had someone much more knowledgeable than I am identifying butterflies and many other forms of life. If you or one of your friends is knowledgeable about butterflies (or want to learn more about them) and would like a little butterfly listing project with results to be posted on the worldwide web, please let me know. And...dragonflies, anyone? ■

Be aware of what's going on:

Attend the monthly Council and  
Planning Board meetings.

Be Involved !

It's Your Town !

# WEATHER ALMANAC

by Ron Filepp

**S**now covered our yard from December 20 until at least January 18 - the date of this writing. That first snowstorm also ushered in very low temperatures that kept the snow cover intact. On December 22 another three-quarters of an inch of snow fell, ensuring a white Christmas. A storm on December 30 guaranteed a white New Year.

On the 29th while idling through a day off from work, I decided to join the hysteria that precedes a storm predicted in ominous tones for over a week. Because we lost electricity in Roosevelt for several hours about a week before the big storm, it seemed prudent to buy a battery-powered camp light. After making that purchase, I went to Shop Rite to buy batteries for the light, bottled water and some other essentials. It was at the supermarket that I fully immersed myself in the day-before-the-storm terror.

Shoppers in survivalist mode crashed ahead through the aisles with little regard for the existence of any other human - focused only on what they wanted to buy. Other shoppers wandered aimlessly, apparently seeking some product that would comfort them while the storm's fury swept them to an everlasting doom.

Lines at the checkout counters were very long. People were stressed out. Many shoppers expressed disgust with the crazed crowd's pre-storm shopping. I wanted to ask them why they were there.

When I got back home, I filled a 22-gallon plastic storage tub with water. Never before had I been so conscientious about preparing for a storm. It was not out of disproportionate fear that I made my preparations. It was out of hope that I would have a real reason to use a certain Christmas gift, an 'end-of-the-world', Y2K radio.

These radios were advertised extensively in the months leading up to New Year's day 2000. The radio has a small solar panel and a hand crank that you use to charge a generator with human power.

Since I was a small boy, I have had a fascination with all radios but especially battery-powered radios. This fascination continues even in the age of television, space travel and the Internet. I think it stems from an appreciation for the sense of independence elicited from an untethered box grabbing words and music out of the ether. So imagine

December 15 - January 15				
Day	High	Low	Avg Precip	
15	40.5	29.8	35.2	0.50
16	53.1	28.8	41.0	0.00
17	65.1	38.5	51.8	0.50
18	39.0	25.2	32.1	0.90
19	45.0	23.4	34.2	0.00
20	30.9	22.3	26.6	0.15
21	34.5	16.3	25.4	0.00
22	34.5	14.4	24.5	0.10
23	28.0	9.3	18.7	0.05
24	34.9	12.7	23.8	0.00
25	26.6	13.5	20.1	0.00
26	27.9	10.9	19.4	0.00
27	31.5	18.1	24.8	0.00
28	28.0	17.4	22.7	0.00
29	29.8	11.3	20.6	0.00
30	32.0	23.5	27.8	1.50
31	34.7	22.1	28.4	0.00
1	32.9	11.1	22.0	0.00
2	28.2	10.4	19.3	0.00
3	29.8	5.4	17.6	0.00
4	36.9	13.1	25.0	0.00
5	35.8	9.9	22.9	0.00
6	40.3	21.6	31.0	0.20
7	41.0	19.0	30.0	0.00
8	39.7	27.1	33.4	0.00
9	35.1	24.1	29.6	0.55
10	34.5	22.3	28.4	0.00
11	45.7	22.1	33.9	0.00
12	40.3	17.8	29.1	0.00
13	38.7	15.6	27.2	0.00
14	42.4	21.6	32.0	0.00
15	39.6	34.2	36.9	0.34
Total Precipitation		4.79		

the glee induced by a radio that is not only freed from a wall socket, but also from Shop Rite and all other sources of batteries.

*Continued on Page 16*

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# BREAKING BREAD

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By Robin Middleman

Prologue: I am writing this for my friend Bess, who likes the biscotti and the story.

**A**lmond-Apricot Biscotti are crumbly and crunchy and tender - sort of the anti-biscotti. They are apparently also addictive, as my story will attest. They have brought out the worst behavior in the nicest people, so be forewarned before you bake.

When I first found the recipe and made a batch, it truly was a labor of love. Why else would I tackle biscotti, which translates from the Italian as "twice-baked" and therefore extra work. On top of that, I had a Sunbeam Oscar - a very small food processor- to work with. I had to process the dough in four small batches, turning it into an all day affair.

I started the tradition of giving the biscotti as holiday gifts with that first batch, some of which I gave to my brother, Bruce and his wife, Janet. He and Janet took the tin of biscotti and their other gifts with them on their hour-long trip home. By the time they got there, all the biscotti were gone. The culprit was Janet-who ate them all during the ride and pled temporary insanity. Keep in mind that Janet is petite and not normally given to gluttony.

So - a week or two later I made another batch, packed a tin for my brother and set it aside. When it was time to go - I picked up the tin. You know what happens when you pick up something that you anticipate will have more

weight than it actually does. I nearly hit myself in the head with the unexpectedly light tin. I opened it to find the once full tin had one sad little crumble left. That was it. This time, Ron confessed to the crime, stating in his pitiful defense that he could not stop - they were like eating pretzels. (!!!) PRETZELS!

Epilogue: Bruce finally got his own biscotti. Janet and Ron learned self-control. I have a full-sized food processor so biscotti are not quite so labor intensive. Just in case, when you make them - put them under lock and key.

## Almond-Apricot Biscotti (from Bon Appetit)

Makes about 40

2 3/4 cups sifted all-purpose flour

1 1/2 cups sugar

1/2 cup (1 stick) chilled unsalted butter, cut into pieces

2 1/2 teaspoons baking powder

1 teaspoon salt

1 teaspoon ground ginger

3 1/2 ounces imported white chocolate (such as Lindt), cut into pieces

1 2/3 cups whole almonds, toasted

1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon apricot-flavored brandy

2 teaspoons almond extract

1 6-ounce package dried apricots, diced

*Continued on Page 18*

## WEATHER ALMANAC

Continued from Page 14

The storm arrived in Roosevelt in the small hours of the morning Saturday. When I awoke around 7:45 a.m., snow was falling moderately heavy and 6.5 inches of the white stuff was on the ground. Two hours later the snow depth was 8.5 inches. By 11:30, the snow measured 11 inches and there seemed to be a fair chance the radio would be put to use. At 3:00 p.m., 15 inches of snow was on the ground. Snow was still falling lightly. When it was all over fully 16 inches of snow covered the ground.

The estimate of 16 inches is based on several measurements taken across an area of my yard away from trees. The estimate comports with measurements taken in surrounding communities - Hightstown 14.9 inches, Millstone 13.5 inches and East Windsor 15 inches.

Roosevelt's Public Works Department did a fine job keeping the streets passable by starting their work early on December 30 and continuing through the rest of the day. The timing of the storm's arrival on the Saturday of a long holiday weekend was fortunate. For most, there was no rush to clear driveways and sidewalks to get on the roads.

The storm did not knock out power in Roosevelt. So, I imagine myself far away from a reliable centralized power source - maybe out in the bush of Africa or in California. I crank the handle, and words and music travel in an instant from a distant place to inspire the mind the spirit or the wallet as the case may be. ■

### Weather Word

Radiosonde - a miniature radio transmitter that is carried by an unmanned balloon aloft with instruments for the simultaneous measurement and transmission of meteorological data.

**Are you taking advantage  
of the Roosevelt Library  
in our school?  
To keep it alive, it needs  
to be used. As CSA  
Weinbach has said:  
"A town library would be  
a terrible thing to lose!"**

## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

Continued from Page 4

**Working with Surrounding Municipalities:** I worked with surrounding municipalities to promote the sharing of services.

- I helped form a committee of school board members, school administrators and municipal officials from Roosevelt, Allentown, Upper Freehold and Millstone to study regionalization as a possible way to reduce taxes
- I led the effort to write an interlocal, shared services agreement between the Borough and the school for recreation for our 'at risk' teenagers and other residents
- I sponsored transportation summit and discussion panel for our seniors so that their questions about transportation could be answered in one place
- I met with mayors and emergency management coordinators from other communities to discuss sharing of services
- I worked with volunteers to help clean up the gas station
- I reported directly to our citizens through a monthly column in The Bulletin..

**Recognition of Our Uniqueness:** We have been able to get a lot of positive exposure for our town.

- During the year 2000, our uniqueness as a special place worthy of respect has been emphasized in feature articles that appeared in the *Asbury Park Press* and *The Times*.
- We received national exposure through articles in the *New York Times* and the Associated Press articles that were picked up by newspapers throughout the country.
- We even received international coverage from BBC radio and Japanese and German television crews.
- On January 2, our efforts to get our fair share of state aid for our school were made prominent in a front-page article in *The Times*.

Thanks to the efforts of Rod Tulloss, founder of the Fund for Roosevelt, the year ended with a visit by Governor Whitman who signed a State Farmland Preservation bill in our school.

Continued on Page 17



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## FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

*Continued from Page 16*

**Borough Ordinances:** During my first year in office I reviewed Roosevelt's ordinances and found some outdated and some too contradictory to be enforced. I recommended a systematic review of all of our ordinances. The vagueness of some and the inconsistency in others could open the Borough to lawsuits.

**Facing the Challenges in the Year Ahead:** We face many challenges in the year ahead. Our utilities are old and in need of a systematic maintenance program. We need to conduct an independent analysis of the condition of our water/sewer system. We must develop and follow a carefully studied plan of action. We can not afford to go back to the 'casual government' style of previous administrations.

In this new year, we must begin to carefully build our municipal budget from the bottom up, not from the top down by guessing the amount needed to be raised through taxes. Well-studied, well-executed government works, it provides good value to the taxpayers and good results over the long run.

We must continue to reach out to our state representatives for the State aid for education that we are entitled to for our taxpayers. The State Commissioner of Education, Richard Hespe has stated in a letter to the Board of Education that although Roosevelt was eligible to receive an additional \$260,000+ in additional State Aid for the 2000-2001 school year, due to the new regulations put into effect we were capped at a 10% increase. The result was that our entitlement was reduced by \$234,400 because of the new State funding formula. This additional aid could have represent a reduction in property taxes of approximately \$700 to the average homeowner in Roosevelt.

The Mayor and Council must join with the School Board to seek tax relief for Roosevelt homeowners. We must continue to seek realistic solutions to our high tax rate.

All of our public bodies and citizens must continue to

work together for lower taxes by pressing our efforts to petition the State for our fair share of State aid for education. We must continue to work with neighboring communities to share our resources so that we can deliver the high level of services that our taxpayers deserve.

We need to protect and safeguard the high quality of life that we already have. We need to improve our quality of borough services. We deserve clear water, good schools and a safe place to raise a family. All of these things can be achieved through careful research, good planning and good execution.

**A Tribute to our Volunteers:** Among the citizens of Roosevelt are many people with extraordinary experience who donate their expertise to community service. Citizen involvement is a long-standing tradition in our town and I am in awe when I think of all of the hours and effort Roosevelt volunteers provide.

Stop for a moment and think of the number of people who give their time to our small community: the six members of the Council, the nine members of the Board of Education, the nine members and two alternates of the Planning Board, the members of the Fund for Roosevelt, the members of the Environmental Commission, the PTA, the Senior Citizens Organization, the First Aid Squad, the Fire Department, the Historical Commission, the staff of The Bulletin, the Nursery School, the Roosevelt Arts Project, the many committees and subcommittees, and all of the informal groups of citizens, and the individuals who act as ambassadors of good will for Roosevelt.

We must continue our hard work because Roosevelt is worth the effort. Our property tax rate should be our common foe, not each other.

Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

Michael B. Hamilton, Mayor 443-5227 or by e-mail: mham82@home.com ■

# NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

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

## FOND FAREWELL TO:

Sol Libsohn, died on January 21st. He will be well remembered and loved by daughter Sara Prestopino, grand-daughters Peri Prestopino, Kristin Tarnas, Shaina Spiegel and companion Bess Tremper.

## NEW ADDITIONS:

Lily Mae Geber was born November 28, 2000. Congratulations to her parents, Kathleen Murphy and David Geber of Plainsboro, both former residents of Roosevelt. The proud grandparents are Ed and Rose Murphy of North Valley Road and Jackie Geber of Cranberry, formerly a Roosevelt resident.

## WELCOME TO:

Bryan and Anna Fenerty and Gabriel, in second grade, and Sebastian, age 3, have moved to North Rochdale from Pennsauken, new Jersey.

Carmen and Luis Quezada and Stephanie Vazquez, in 6th grade, Jason Vasquez, in 8th grade, and Ashley Quezada, 20 months old, have moved to Lake Drive from Hightstown.

Winn and Steve Vest and daughter Logan, age 3, moved to Tamara Drive. Winn is the daughter of Ellen and Bert Margulies of Lake Drive.

## FROM CAMPUS:

Katie Alfare is in the pit orchestra at Franklin & Marshall college. She will be playing in an upcoming production of *Pippin*.

## FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

First marking period high honors: Avery Axel, Lian Garton, Christopher Wong, Molly Petrilla, Adam Axel and Naomi Cayne.

First marking period honors: Linsay Possiel, Tina Vasseur, Wesley John-Alder, Brandon Lugannani, Sarah Skillman, Marissa Mellan, Hannah Stinson and Victoria Taylor.

Juniors Molly Petrilla, Haley Reimbold and Sarah Skillman were elected to the Hightstown chapter of the National Honor Society (NHS). Selection to the NHS is based on leadership, service and extracurricular activities as well as grade point average. Roosevelt seniors Hannah Stinson and Vicki Taylor were already members.

Molly Petrilla auditioned successfully for the Central Jersey Regional Wind Ensemble. This is Molly's fifth consecutive year playing clarinet in the regional program.

In sports, Chris Wong and Jesse Parsons are on the men's swim team, Tina Vasseur is on the women's swim team, Brandon Tyers is on Varsity wrestling, and Brian Davis is on the junior Varsity wrestling team, and Nate Kostar is on the varsity basketball team.

## FROM PEDDIE SCHOOL:

Freshman Deirdre Lloyd completed the first term with Honors. She also was an Honors student all three terms of her 8th grade year and at the convocation ceremony at the start of this school year received the Wintersteen Prize, as the outstanding 8th grade Introduction to Algebra student.

*Continued on Page 19*

## BREAKING BREAD

*Continued from Page 15*

Line 18x12x1-inch cookie sheet with foil. Butter and flour foil. Combine first 6 ingredients in processor. Process until fine meal forms. Add white chocolate and process until finely chopped. Add toasted almonds and chop coarsely, using 6 to 8 on/off turns. Beat eggs, brandy and extract to blend in large bowl. Add flour mixture and apricots and stir until moist dough forms.

Drop dough by spoonfuls in three 12-inch-long strips on prepared sheet, spacing evenly. Moisten fingertips and shape each dough strip into 2-inch-wide log. Refrigerate until dough is firm, about 30 minutes.

Position each in the center of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F. Bake until logs are golden, about 30 minutes. Transfer sheet to rack and cool completely.

Reduce heat to 300 degrees F. Cut logs from sides of pan if necessary. Transfer to work surface. Using heavy sharp knife cut each log crosswise into 3/4-inch-wide slices. Arrange half of cookies cut side down on cookie sheet. Bake 10 minutes. Gently turn cookies over and bake 10 minutes longer. Transfer cookies to racks. Repeat baking with remaining cookies. Cool cookies completely. (Cookies store well in an airtight container)

NOTE: I use orange juice instead of apricot brandy. I have never been able to remember to buy the brandy. The orange juice works fine. ■

# ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT 2000-2001 SEASON

The Roosevelt Arts Project is pleased to announce our 2000-2001 calendar of events, featuring a wonderfully varied array of readings and performances, concerts and exhibit of the works of Roosevelt artists.

All events, with the exception of the art exhibit, take place at the Borough Hall and will begin at 8:00 p.m. At most events we ask only for a suggested contribution of \$6.00, just \$4.00 for students and seniors. This year, we will ask \$10/\$5.00 for admission to the Roosevelt String Band concert. Mark your calendars and watch for our brochure and the Bulletin for additional details.

Exhibitions Camden County Cultural and Heritage Commission sponsored joint exhibitions of Roosevelt artists at two locations and a lecture by Dr. Arthur Shapiro.:

## **Saturday February 3**

The Ellarslie Trio After the string quartet, music for the trio of piano, violin and cello is the heart of the chamber music repertoire, with nearly every important composer since Haydn writing music for that combination. The Ellarslie Trio, with Roosevelt resident and RAP regular, Alan Mallach, piano, Erika Phillips, cello and Cindy Ogulnick, viola, will present a concert of classical and romantic music for a piano trio culminating in one of the unchallenged masterpieces of the trio repertoire, Johannes Brahms' magisterial Trio No. 1 in B Major.

## **Saturday March 3**

An Evening of Poetry - Join the Roosevelt poets for an evening of "mud time" revelations, with musical accompaniment.

## **Friday & Saturday April 27 & 28**

Roosevelt string Band - in concert. Back for its fourteenth annual concert, the Roosevelt string Band, featuring Paul Prestopino, David Brahinsky, Ed Cedar, Judy Trachtenberg and Howie Jacobson, will perform a wide variety of folk music to make you laugh, cry, think, reminisce, learn new songs and sing along with your favorites.

## **Saturday May 19**

Computer Chamber Music - Join Roosevelt resident Brad Garton and his colleagues from the Columbia University Computer Music Center for an evening of relaxed "chamber music" created with new digital signal processing techniques and experimental music -performance interface technologies. Of particular interest will be a set of pieces using the ambient acoustic environment of Roosevelt Borough as a foundation for musical expression.

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. ■

*Continued from Page 18*

### **FROM KREPS MIDDLE SCHOOL:**

First marking period honor roll: Reuben Alt, Lyssa Cousineau, Ryan Grasso, Laurel Hamilton, Erika Heden, Jennifer Iacono, Nicholas Impellizzeri, Mollie Marko, Danielle Petrics, Kelsey Reimbold and Michael Silverman.

In sports, Nick Impellizzeri and Mike Silverman are on the

wrestling team, Casey Wolfe is the wrestling manager, and laurel Hamilton is the Junior Varsity basketball manager, ■

If you or a neighbor has recently moved to town, please let this reporter know so that a welcome can appear in this column. Also, if your son or daughter in college has some news from campus please let me know. Thank you.

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## REVIEW

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### Jacob Landau and the Dante Cycle

By Gladys Nadler

Seven lithographs by Jacob Landau were displayed on freestanding, white panels facing the audience. The drawings depicted seven of the nine circles of Hell described in the "Inferno" section of Dante's "The Divine Comedy."

The format of the December 2nd Roosevelt Arts Project program at the Borough Hall included 1) a viewing of the lithographs and some of the artist's preliminary drawings, 2) an interview with the artist conducted by David Herrstrom, who then, 3) gave a talk about Landau's art and interpretation of "The Inferno."

After a plan to illustrate a John Ciardi translation of the Dante masterpiece fell through, Landau explained, he applied successfully for a grant which enabled him to do the work. First, he was appalled at the punishments Dante described. "Then it dawned on me that these were punishments we inflict on ourselves," he said. Once he saw that "people create their own hell," he felt able to start drawing from that perspective.

Asked about the experimental aspect of the techniques he used, Landau said, "The technique of producing plates in a different way liberated me. The technique was so

responsive...I could do anything I wanted...I could experiment with my ideas in ways I'd never done before."

In his talk, David Herrstrom emphasized Landau's "vision", his modern humanitarian point of view and how it compares to Dante's outlook, which was reiterated in the illustrations by William Blake. The Landau cycle starts with "The Virtuous Pagans," completed in 1977. This corresponds to the first Circle of Hell which Dante called "Limbo," inhabited by those who had never been baptized.

The unifying narrative thread in Dante's "Inferno" is that the Roman poet Virgil leads Dante safely through a tour of Hell. In the Landau illustrations, the heads of Virgil and Dante appear prominently in each drawing.

Speaking of Landau's humanitarian outlook on Dante's sinners and their punishments, specifically in the "Suicides" section, Herrstrom said, "There's no blame in Landau, but there is blame in Dante." In the second circle, though the lovers Paolo and Francesca were caught and killed by Francesca's husband, "they

*Continued from Page 21*

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### 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:

*Continued from Page 20*

are in Hell, but they are together." In Dante, the lovers are caught in the wind. In Landau, there is tension and drama, Herrstrom said, and "the struggle continues."

Related to the artist's belief that we create our own hell emerges the theme of spiritual conquest of the self. Herrstrom pointed out the depiction of conflicts and struggle expressed in the drawings. Among these are mental warfare versus corporal warfare, wholeness versus disintegration. He said that what the artist is expressing is that "We create our own hell, but we can change things."

Herrstrom indicated that while the first three drawings involved individuals, the others expressed social concerns. In all seven lithographs, Landau "made the human form central, calling into question the abstract art of the seventies and eighties," he said. In the third circle, the "City of Dis," Landau's depiction seems to ask, "What does it mean to be a member of society", the speaker observed. In the last print (Circle Seven), the heads of Virgil and Dante are upside down. There is a whirling windmill with helicopter blades that seem to symbolize the Vietnam War.

The drawings are so replete with detail that the viewer keeps seeing more while looking. Looking again following the discussion revealed even more. ■

## Roosevelt's Own Mezzo Soprano Performs

By Clare Sacharoff

**O**n a cold slippery Saturday evening, January 6th, there was a packed house at the Roosevelt Borough Hall. The Roosevelt Arts Project presented a concert by mezzo-soprano Cheri Rose Katz accompanied by noted pianist Alan Mallach.

Cheri Katz has performed in many operas both in the U.S.A. and abroad. She was born and raised in Roosevelt and attended the local school. While still a student, it became clear to all music mavens, that Cheri possessed musical talent as well as perfect pitch.

The program was varied to appeal to all types of music lovers. For opera fans, there were selections by Gluck, Verdi, Saint Sans, Mascagni and Menotti. Alan Mallach contributed interesting background information prior to each operatic selection.

On the lighter side, Cheri performed songs from Copeland, Gershwin, Kern and Sondheim. She gave a lovely rendition of *summertime* from "Porgy and Bess" by George Gershwin.

Cheri demonstrated a wide range, strong voice and vocal clarity.

The concert was extremely well received ending with an encore from Beget's "Carmen".

We wish Cheri much success and hope she will consider a repeat performance in the near future. ■

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## CALENDAR

*Continued from Page 24*

### March 2001 Preview

2	Fri.		RPS Closed - Professional Day for Teachers.
3	Sat.	8:00 p.m.	RAP Program, Roosevelt Poets, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867.
5	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227.
7	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Gail Hunton, 426-4338.
8	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Meeting, RPS, President Sharlene Ellentuck, 448-4440. ■

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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. Contributions are tax deductible

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**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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RPS Computer Lab Open Wednesday evenings.

- |    |        |                        |   |
|----|--------|------------------------|---|
| 2  | Fri.   |                        | RPS Report Cards Distributed.<br>RPS Pizza Day.   |
| 3  | Sat.   | 8 p.m.                 | RAP Program,<br>The Ellarslie Trio, Borough Hall,<br>Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867.   |
| 5  | Mon.   | 7:30 p.m.              | Council Agenda Meeting,<br>Borough Hall,<br>Mayor Michael Hamilton,<br>443-5227.  |
| 6  | Tues.  | 1:00 p.m.<br>2:00 p.m. | Blood Pressure Check.<br>Seniors' Meeting.  |
| 7  | Wed.   |                        | RPS Four Hour Session -<br>Parent Conferences.<br>8:00 p.m. Planning Board Meeting,<br>Borough Hall,<br>Gail Hunton, 426-4338.                  |
| 8  | Thurs. |                        | RPS Four Hour Session -<br>Parent conferences.<br>7:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting, RPS,<br>Sharlene Ellentuck, President,<br>448-4440.     |
| 10 | Sat.   | 7:00 p.m.              | RCN 2nd Annual Valentine<br>Dinner Dance, American Legion<br>Hightstown, Geryl Hickey,<br>443-5030.   |
| 12 | Mon.   | 7:30 p.m.              | Council Action Meeting,<br>Borough Hall,<br>Mayor Michael Hamilton,<br>443-5227.<br>7:30 p.m. Synagogue Board Meeting,<br>Neil Marko, 443-6818. |
| 13 | Tues.  | 7:30 p.m.              | PTA Meeting, RPS, President<br>JoAnne Parker, 448-5619.   |

- |    |        |           |   |
|----|--------|-----------|---|
| 14 | Wed.   |           | RECYCLE<br>RPS Four Hour Session -<br>Parent Conferences<br>7:30 p.m. Foreign Film, "Dark Eyes",<br>RPS Library, Dolores Chasan,<br>448-2062.     |
| 16 | Fri.   |           | RPS Pizza Day.  |
| 19 | Mon.   |           | President's Day -<br>Post Office Closed, RPS Closed.  |
| 20 | Tues.  | 7:30 p.m. | Council Committee Meetings,<br>Borough Hall, President<br>Harry Parker, 448-5619.   |
| 21 | Wed.   |           | RPS Four Hour Session -<br>Parent Conferences.<br>8:00 p.m. Environmental Commission<br>Meeting, Borough Hall,<br>Chairman Rod Tulloss, 448-5096. |
| 22 | Thurs. |           | RPS Four Hour Session -<br>Parent Conferences.<br>7:30 p.m. Board of Education Meeting, RPS,<br>President Sharlene Ellentuck,<br>448-4440.        |
| 24 | Sat.   |           | PTA Winter Carnival, President<br>JoAnne Parker, 448-5619.  |
| 26 | Mon.   | 7:30 p.m. | Council Committee Meetings,<br>Borough Hall, President<br>Harry Parker, 448-5619.   |
| 28 | Wed.   |           | RECYCLE.  |

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