

Bulletin

23

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May 2000

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Water Restriction Penalty Ordinance Introduced; Trooper Reinhart Commended

by Michael Ticktin

The April 10 meeting of the Borough Council lasted less than an hour and a half and was devoid of any serious controversy. The major action taken was the discussion and introduction of a proposed ordinance establishing penalties of \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation and \$500 for all subsequent violations for any person who fails to comply with summer restrictions on the use of the municipal water system. The ordinance, which was corrected before introduction to make it clear that it would apply only to the public water supply and not to the use of water from private wells, is necessary because the water tank, which was designed for the original development of 200 houses, is too small to meet current demand, with the result that there is excess demand on the system during summer months when people are watering lawns and filling pools. These activities are only permitted on alternate days between the beginning of June and the end of October. Once the ordinance is adopted, violators will be subject to penalties that will be enforceable in the municipal court. The ordinance will be primarily enforced by Code Enforcement Officer John Reuter.

In his report, Mayor Michael Hamilton stated that he had attended a meeting between the Senior Citizens group and Monmouth County officials to discuss the transportation concerns of Roosevelt seniors. He also reported that he

had had a second meeting with residents interested in developing recreational programs and that the Borough had received permission from Mr. and Mrs. Guyette to enter the garage property for the purpose of removing drums of potentially hazardous waste and making the property secure. The Mayor thanked Bruce Reimbold and other volunteers who assisted in the clean-up effort.

Councilman Harry Parker reported that the administrative

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Board of Education Election Results:
Sharlene Ellentuck, David Ticktin and
Mary Tulloss were re-elected for
three year terms.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

BOROUGH OF ROOSEVELT RESOLUTION #43/2000

RESOLUTION TO PROMOTE THE ELIMINATION OF BACK YARD MOSQUITO BREEDING AREAS IN COOPERATION WITH THE MONMOUTH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

WHEREAS, the Borough of Roosevelt has been notified by the Monmouth County Board of Health that there is a need to take extra precautions to prevent mosquito breeding in back yards this spring, summer and fall; and

WHEREAS, this Board of Health alert is based on the possible re-emergence of the West Nile Virus, which is transmitted by mosquito called *Culex pipiens*; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 West Nile Virus outbreak in the greater New York City area caused 39 people to be ill, and 6 people died. Early symptoms included fever, mental confusion and severe weakness. It is believed that this was the first time that the West Nile Virus was introduced to the United States; and

WHEREAS, this mosquito is known to lay its eggs and multiply in stagnant water that may be found in the back yards of residences; and

WHEREAS, it is common for this mosquito to breed in tin cans, tarps, boats, swimming pools, gutters, buckets, bird bathes and tires, amongst other items that contain stagnant water; and

WHEREAS, Public Health Authorities believe that this disease can be prevented by active community involvement focusing on the elimination of stagnant water at local residences, coupled with personal protection (clothing and repellents).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Governing Body of the Borough of Roosevelt that it strongly supports the community-wide, back yard elimination of mosquito breeding areas as proposed by the Monmouth County Board of Health, and strongly suggests that all residents pay attention to this warning and eliminate stagnant water that is found in cans, buckets, tarps, gutters, kiddie pools, etc. on their property.

FURTHERMORE, that the Borough of Roosevelt request that the residents pay special attention to the spring time maintenance of swimming pools as they can be rapidly populated with mosquito larvae. ■

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Closed Sessions Continue

by Bob Clark

In lieu of his regular report, Bob Clark has submitted the following letter:

To the Editor:

On April 12, for the second time in three months, the Roosevelt Planning Board barred the public from its discussion of how to settle a lawsuit filed against the Board by Abby and Daniel Notterman. The Board excluded the public, on the advice of its attorney, under an exception permitted, but not required, by New Jersey's Open Public Meetings Act. The law says the Board "may exclude the public... [when it] discusses... pending ... litigation" Instead of contributing my usual Planning Board article, I decided to write this letter about the Board's exclusion of the public.

As you know, the Nottermans sued the Board on January 21 in response to the previous 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. The 2000 Board, with four new members, now must decide whether it wants to settle with the Nottermans by telling them what a would-be developer would have to do in order to obtain the Board's approval. If the Nottermans agreed with the Board's settlement proposal, the attorneys would file the settlement document with the court and the lawsuit would end. The public then would have its first chance to see the stipulation of settlement too late to affect it with any comments.

A developer would stand an excellent chance of succeeding with an application that conformed to the agreement. There would be some trivial details to resolve but no important issues. After all, what board would want to disturb an agreement that it had toiled long hours to achieve? Rather, it would include the things that were important to it in the agreement and not quibble too much afterward about petty details in an application.

If a developer submitted an application, the Board would schedule a public hearing. Members of the public could speak in open session about the pros and cons of the application. If persuaded by opponents of the application that it would disserve the town, the Board could deny it, despite the existence of a settlement. I believe, however, that the chance for such a denial would be slim to none.

The public hearing would involve perfunctory palaver instead of the lively debate that greeted M&M's application during 1999. The 2000 Board's decision would be *fait accompli*.

If a would-be developer sent to the 2000 Board an application that conformed to a settlement agreement, Board members would have little to say at the public hearing beyond, "Thank you." The lion's share of important issues would already have been discussed in closed session at the time the settlement agreement was considered. In presenting its concerns or cross-examining the developer's witnesses, the public would not have had the benefit of hearing the comments or questions of individual Board members on the key issues. By contrast, when M&M submitted its application to the 1999 Board, its members had plenty to say, and it all had to be said in public. As a result, the public watching the 1999 Board was enlightened substantially. The public observing the 2000 Board's consideration of an application submitted in accordance with a settlement agreement likely would encounter a circumspect Board reluctant to say things that would jeopardize a deal carefully crafted in closed session.

Under the law, the Board can exclude the public from the discussion of important development issues so long as the Board is immersed in litigation. It ought not to do so, however, when deciding momentous issues affecting the largest potential development in Roosevelt since the Borough's founding. What the law may permit is not the wisest course when confronted with tenuous litigation such as the Nottermans' case.

The Board's attorney, Michele Donato, is an astute lawyer. She is giving the Board conservative advice that will assure the least possible jeopardy for the Board. But sometimes it is worth taking a legal risk, especially if it is slight, in order to advance a paramount policy, such as public participation in one of the most important decisions ever to affect Roosevelt.

Board members reported on April 12 that the Nottermans or their attorney expressed displeasure that most of the Board's first meeting to consider a settlement was conducted in public. M&M's representatives voiced similar impatience with public participation in the discussion of

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BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

Continued from Page 1

committee of the Council was still interviewing applicants for the vacant public works position and was not yet able to make a recommendation. The ability of the public works employee to provide fire or first aid service during the day when volunteers are likely to be elsewhere is being taken into consideration.

Councilman John Towle, reporting for the finance committee, stated that the municipal budget had been adopted at a special meeting on March 20 and that he would gladly review the budget with anyone who would like to be in a position to participate in the budget process for next year.

He also stated that the committee would be obtaining information about the investment of Borough funds, both past and current.

Councilwoman Rose D. Murphy reported for the municipal utilities committee that hydrant flushing had occurred and that a defective water valve on Maple Court was being replaced. She also stated that she had attended the meeting with the senior citizens and the Monmouth County officials and that arrangements were

being made for full-day use of the SCAT bus for trips.

Under New Business, in addition to introducing the penalty ordinance the Council passed four resolutions, which were as follows:




- Calling upon residents to cooperate with the program of the Monmouth County Health Department to eliminate backyard mosquito breeding areas (Text appears in Announcements);
- Supporting a Million Mothers' March on Mother's Day, in support of gun control;
- Commending State Police Officer Chris Reinhart for his service to the community and calling for the continuation of the Community Policing Program; and,
- Calling upon the Legislature to place upon the November ballot a question concerning abolition of funding of the public schools through the property tax.

Following up on the resolution commending Officer Reinhart, Karen

Sensi and Kelly Mitchell told the Council of their efforts to encourage residents to sign commendations for him. Signatures are being collected both at the post office and at the school. The continuation of the Community Policing Program, which has been so effectively implemented here by Officer Reinhart, is dependent upon Federal funding and it is therefore necessary to make clear the importance of the program to our representatives in Washington, as well as to state officials. Also, in the public portion, Neil Marko requested more information as to what projects the funds held in the water/sewer fund were going to be used for. Councilwoman Murphy replied that the Council had a list of potential projects but had not yet been able to make a priority list. One thing that was being done, however, was compliance with a DEP directive that an 8-foot fence be put around the water tower to discourage unauthorized climbing and possible tampering.

In other business, the Mayor appointed Ed Moser as an alternate member of the Environmental Commission, for a two-year term ending December 31, 2001. ■

SCHOOL is OPEN!



Watch your Speed!

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

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

by Mayor Michael Hamilton

New Jersey State 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."

Over the last few months, I have been reviewing Roosevelt's ordinances and procedures, evaluating the performance of paid professionals like the Borough attorney and the Chief Financial Officer, and reviewing the financial records of the Borough. In my last article for the Bulletin, I stressed the need to manage Roosevelt's finances carefully, I reviewed the Borough budget and compared our surplus (over-collected taxes) with that of neighboring municipalities. I concluded that we have consistently overcharged our taxpayers and accumulated the largest surplus in Roosevelt Borough history. Furthermore, we have forfeited as much as \$30,000 in annual revenue due to the Council's poor oversight of banking practices. One of our municipal bank accounts held between a half-million to three-quarters of a million dollars of taxpayer's money and was "invested" at zero interest. Astonishingly, we were even charged for the printing of checks!

I would like to give special thanks, to the "let's do it!" attitude of so many of Roosevelt citizens. There has traditionally been a spirit of volunteerism and community activism in Roosevelt. We are indebted to everyone who has given their time and energy to public service in our town. It is good to see that new people are joining in the effort.

This month I have acted in response to community concerns:

- I participated in action by the School Board, and a Roosevelt citizen's committee led by Dolores Chasan, Mary Tulloss and Helen Barth. The committee is continuing efforts to change our school classification so that we can receive \$300,000 in additional annual State aid for which we are entitled. These efforts have already resulted in a \$93,775 special school-aid package for tax relief. Sixty three thousand dollars was applied to this year's school budget. The average homeowner's taxes will go down between \$300 to \$400 this year, and this is just the beginning.

- On April 5th, Bruce Reibold and I received

approval to go on site with representatives from the County Health Department and the DEP to begin the long-neglected clean up of the vacant gas station. We found evidence that children had been regular visitors to the building and grounds of the abandoned gas station and had handled some of the greases and industrial solvents. The State and County officials transferred chemicals from leaking drums into smaller secure containers, and all of these receptacles were stored in the building. The doors to the building have been bolted shut. Furthermore, we have arranged to dispose of all of these materials in May at the Monmouth County Household Hazardous Waste facility

- On April 4, I helped coordinate a "Senior Transportation Summit" to address senior citizens' need for transportation. Representative of the State Assembly 30th District, the Monmouth County Department of Aging, SCAT, and County Freeholder Ted Narizanak, were present to address a wide range of seniors' concerns.

- In order to protect our children and other pedestrians from speeders, I arranged with the Borough of Hightstown to borrow one hundred of their "slow down" and "25 mph" signs. These signs along our local roads now caution drivers to be mindful of their speed. Karen (KC) Sensi and Kelly Mitchell picked up and distributed the signs. I am assisting their efforts to petition the State Police to continue the Community Policing Program in Roosevelt.

- I continued to meet with the newly formed recreation group (Paul Freedman, Bruce Reibold, Valerie Plaska, Ellen Silverman and Laurelynne Cokeley) to help establish activities for Roosevelt teenagers.

So that I can objectively evaluate Roosevelt's municipal problems, I have established connections with experts and officials from neighboring municipalities. The relationships I have formed have enabled me to seek a diverse range of opinions and viewpoints regarding the challenges that we must address in the months ahead. Since taking office in the beginning of this year I have:

- obtained and reviewed ordinance books from neighboring municipalities
- received *pro bono* advice from attorneys from other municipalities

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PLANNING BOARD NEWS

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major issues raised by M&M's application. Could it be that the Nottermans or their attorney would rather the public not observe the discussion until a settlement would render the Board's decision on an application *fait accompli*? Should we not cringe when we contemplate the Board playing into such a hand?

The Nottermans' case is weak. M&M stubbornly insisted on variances from a reasonable buffer requirement. The 1999 Board quite properly denied M&M's application and did not act arbitrarily or capriciously. A court would probably throw out the Nottermans' lawsuit on summary judgment, or after a brief trial.

The Nottermans have deep pockets, however, and Roosevelt does not. Although Michele Donato is very adept at land use and municipal law and her invoices to the Board are reasonable, perhaps even charitable, she cannot guarantee success in court, and she must charge something for her time.

Such concerns may cause most planning boards to acquiesce without regret in the plaintiffs' demand for secret set-

tlement discussions. But in Roosevelt several members of the 2000 Board have contended loudly that full public participation should be paramount in the process of deciding development issues. They would have screamed bloody murder if the 1999 Board had closed this settlement process and excluded them from observing it, let alone commenting on it. Despite their words, their present eagerness to settle the lawsuit and their willingness to acquiesce in the conventional wisdom that secrecy in settlement negotiations should be sacrosanct has classed Roosevelt with other wearying towns lacking sufficient conviction to conduct important business in sunshine.

Is Roosevelt "unique," as some residents are fond of saying, or does it just have some public officials who are uniquely hypocritical on the question of public participation? Perhaps they believe we can rely solely on *noblesse oblige* now that they are on the job.

Sincerely,

Bob Clark

FROM THE MAYOR'S CHAIR

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- met with our municipal engineer and other experts to evaluate our water and sewer needs
- consulted with planners about land use issues
- met with financial officers from other municipalities
- interviewed clerks from other towns regarding their municipal budgets
- met with the mayors, school board representatives and administrators of other towns
- discussed Roosevelt's needs with our elected State and County officials.

In the weeks ahead, the Council will be deliberating about the construction of a new water tower that may be needed if houses are built (in PCD I) near the cemetery. The Council must address many questions:

- Will the new water tower be built in close proximity to the cemetery (PCD 1)?
- How large will the new water tower be? How many

gallons are needed to serve the proposed houses in PCD 1?

- Our existing water tower holds 85,000 gals. Will the new water tower be built to serve only the proposed new houses near the cemetery? During the hearings on the proposed PCD 1 development, there was discussion regarding the construction of a 250,000 gl. water tower to accommodate both PCD 1 and PCD 2 development. Will the new water tower be engineered to accommodate future large-scale "adult" development on the farmland in (PCD 2)?
- How much will the new water tower cost? One Councilman recently quoted a cost of \$638,000. Who will pay for this new water tower? Will you be taxed for its construction? What share of these costs will be borne by the developer(s)?
- How long will it take to recoup these costs? These issues affect every Roosevelt taxpayer. I urge you to join in the discussion of these matters during the

District Factor Groups, State Aid and The Census

by Michael Ticktin

This article was written prior to the announcement that the Roosevelt school district would receive additional funding. While this aid is most welcome, the problem of loss of aid because of the use of District Factor Group rankings remains, as does the need to insist on equitable treatment.

For many months, the Roosevelt Board of Education has been working diligently to persuade the State Department of Education to get the Roosevelt school district reclassified from District Factor group I in order to make us eligible for categories of State aid that are not available to districts in the highest two groups, I and J, because they are supposedly wealthy enough not to need the additional aid. Were this additional aid made available to us, we would no longer have one of the highest equalized school tax rates in the State.

While it is certainly appropriate that the Board continue its efforts to get the Department of Education to reexamine its analysis in order to determine whether Roosevelt was correctly classified, I would suggest that that is not the real issue. My suspicion is that, absent some simple mathematical error, an objective review will conclude that Roosevelt was indeed correctly classified.

Why do I say this? It is because the District Factor Grouping (DFG) classification system is not, and was never designed to be, a measurement of wealth. Rather, it represents the results of a statistical technique called "principal components analysis" that is used to measure separate variables. These are as follows: the percentage of adults who failed to complete high school; the percentage of adults who attended college; occupational status, ranging from laborer to professionals, with more point being given as one goes up the socioeconomic ladder; population density (the lower, the better); median family income; percentage of those in the work force receiving unemployment compensation; and, percentage of residents below the poverty line. While it is true that Roosevelt's median family income was just about average for Monmouth County and for the State in 1990, we would have had high positive, or low negative, scores on all of the other factors. The Department of Education official who called us "an anomaly" was correct; despite having only an average median income, we have managed to attain the other characteristics of a community of high

socioeconomic status. This is not something that we should necessarily be unhappy about.

This brings us to the real issue that should be addressed - that the District Factor Groupings are being used by the Department of Education for a purpose for which they were never intended. As the Department itself acknowledges, "the District Factor Group is an indicator of the socioeconomic status of citizens in each district and has been useful for the comparative reporting of test results from New Jersey's statewide testing programs." The use of the DFG as a surrogate for financial need began when the New Jersey Supreme Court, in the Abbott decision, told the Department of Education that it could identify the districts requiring special help by their classification in group A under the DFG scheme. Since the A districts tend to have high scores on all the negative variables and low scores on all the positive ones, use of the DFG scheme for identifying the neediest districts made sense.

The error made by the Department of Education, however, was to assume that the DFG scheme would be applicable for all non-poor districts as well. The Department failed to take account of the fact that a community could be of middle income - not wealthy by any reasonable definition - but nonetheless be well-educated, have many people in professional or managerial jobs (often in education or other public or nonprofit service), have a low population density, and have low rates of unemployment and poverty. The problem is that the Department of Education used the DFG rankings as a surrogate for income when there was no need to do so, since income figures are readily available. This is the error that we must persuade the Department of Education, the Governor and the Legislature to address.

Since the DFG rankings are based on census data, the recalculation that we are seeking will certainly be done within the next couple of years, since April 1, 2000 is the date of the national census. It is important that everyone complete and return their census forms, so that Roosevelt can be accurately counted. Needless to say, it is particularly important, so long as the Department of Education holds to its flawed methodology, that those who might contribute to a lowering of Roosevelt's DFG score participate, and some personal reminders to friends and neigh-

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VIEWPOINT

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bors in this regard might be helpful. My own suspicion, however, is that the 2000 census will show that we are still in the I classification, and our efforts must therefore be directed towards pointing out the faulty assumptions underlying use of DFG rankings for allocation of state school aid. ■

NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

District Factor Groups

The District Factor Group (DFG) is an indicator of the socioeconomic status of citizens in each district and has been useful for the comparative reporting of test results from New Jersey's statewide testing programs. The measure was first developed in 1974 using demographic variables from the 1970 United States Census. A revision was made in 1984 to take into account new data from the 1980 United States Census. The DFG designations were updated again in 1992 using the following demographic variables from the 1990 United States Census.

- A. Percent of adult residents who failed to complete high school
- B. Percent of adult residents who attended college
- C. Occupational status of adult household members:
 - 1 = laborers
 - 2 = service workers (except private and protective)
 - 3 = farm workers
 - 4 = operative and kindred workers
 - 5 = protective service workers
 - 6 = sales workers
 - 7 = clerical and kindred workers
 - 8 = craftsmen, foreman and kindred workers
 - 9 = quasi-professionals
 - 10 = managers, officials and proprietors
 - 11 = old and new professionals
- D. Population Density: persons per square mile
- E. Income: median family income
- F. Unemployment: percent of those in the work force who received some unemployment compensation

G. Poverty:
percent of residents below the poverty level

The variables described above were combined using a statistical technique called principal components analysis, which resulted in a single measure of socioeconomic status for each district. Districts were then ranked according to their score on this measure and divided into eight groups based on the score interval in which their scores were located. Eight DFG have been created based on the 1990 United States Census data. They range from A (lowest socioeconomic districts) to J (highest socioeconomic districts) and are labeled as follows; A, B, CD, DE, FG., GH, I, J. Updating the DFG has not changed any district's designation as Special Needs or not Special Needs.

Whereas the DFG based on the 1980 United States Census resulted in 10 groups containing approximately equal numbers of districts, the DFG based on the 1990 United States Census resulted in eight groups of different sizes depending on their score. The number of districts* in each DFG is now as follows:

DFG	Number of Districts
A	35
B	78
CD	75
DE	100
FG	87
GH	78
I	105
J	15

*Includes all New Jersey's public school districts (regardless of school configuration or grade levels served). ■

SCHOOL NEWS

From the Office of the CSA, Dr. Dale Weinbach

I hope everyone is aware that the school board received a last moment special appropriation of funds that was used to alleviate taxes for the school year. We are grateful to Assemblyman Joe Malone and the tenacious efforts of school board members and the citizens of Roosevelt. Concerned residents continue on their letter writing campaign, and I encourage you to continue these efforts. The additional funds we received were a one time gift. We need to assure that Roosevelt receives a fair amount of state funding for school every year.

The volunteer committee for the Roosevelt Public Library is in the process of planning an open house for residents. The immediate goal of the committee is to infuse the library program with new activities that will entice more community participation. The library can provide a vital source of learning and education for all members of the community. Please mark June 14th on your calendars so you can join us in the library. Come with your ideas and suggestions for new plans to keep our library program going!

Several exciting programs will be going on in school during May. The entire community is invited to join us at school on May 18 for a 1:30 performance by the Arts for Anyone players. Each class in the school has worked with

a musical composer to compose the music and write the lyrics to a song. The students studied the Ben Shahn mural in depth, and the songs were created to address the themes of tolerance and hope that the students found within the mural. Professional singers will be performing with the help of the students, who actually wrote the musical score.

Our annual spring concert, under the direction of Mr. John Dingle, is scheduled for an evening performance on May 25.

As part of our planning for the 2000-2001 school year, we will be developing a three year multi-equity plan. This plan will guide us in arranging staff development geared to maintaining equity for all aspects of the school program - in the treatment of staff and students, in building facilities, in hiring practices, in curriculum development. Our school district has an affirmative action officer, Ilene Levine, who can be notified here at school should anyone wish to inquire about the multi-equity plan, or raise any concern that needs to be addressed. Board policy prohibits bias, harassment, discrimination or segregation, and ensures equality in all educational programs. ■

Roosevelt Community Nursery School Newsletter

by Ginny Weber

May is a very busy month for us at RCNS. We had our annual mini-march for cystic fibrosis and a good time was had by all.

The children have been very busy making special Mother's Day treats for Mom as well.

We celebrated Cinco de Mayo at school by learning some customs of Mexico and where it is located. The children love to learn and speak basic Spanish words and phrases! We also found out interesting things about the desert and the creatures and plantlife that thrive there.

The children are fascinated by the ocean and sea life. We will make some sea creatures and find out how they live. We will also find out about fresh and salt water habitats.

Our pet show will be this month culminating pet week. The children love to show and talk about their pets. Most important is that they realize they need special care and love to be happy and live a long life.

We are planning and practicing for our graduation which is on June 15th.

Registration for our session beginning in September is starting now. If anyone is interested in stopping by to see our school, please call Ginny at 426-9523 to arrange a time. We love visitors and welcome the opportunity to show our school in progress. We are also planning an open house this spring on a Sunday afternoon. The date and time will be announced shortly. ■

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB NEWS

by Herb Johnson, Secretary

Six special guests attended the Roosevelt Senior Citizens Club meeting at 1:00 p.m. on April 4 at the Borough Hall, mainly to be involved in providing better transportation for senior citizens or disabled persons. Ted Narozanick, a Monmouth County Freeholder; Henry Nicholson, the Director of Transportation for the County; John Wanat, Executive Director of the County's Department of Aging; Margaret Firth, aide to State Senator Singer; Mayor Michael Hamilton and Councilwoman Rose D. Murphy were the guests.

Club members knew about most of the programs the guests spoke about, and were dissatisfied about no progress with transportation to doctors in Mercer and Middlesex counties. Mr. Nicholson promised that a bus and driver would be made available for trips to medical appointments in Mercer County on Thursdays, to go as far as Princeton with 24 hour advance notice. There are

now daily trips to doctors in Monmouth County: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday; and, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday for \$2.00 each way. If one's income is less than \$800 per month, free rides are available. Mr. Wanat said frozen meals for a week can be delivered weekly if case workers determine the need for them. He asked us to call 732-431-7450 for arrangements.

Everyone was urged to fill out the Census forms and mail them in promptly. Gerry Millar was hostess for refreshments after the meeting. The next third Tuesday trip would be to the Ames Department store in the Clover Mall, after which the club members would have lunch at the Chinese Buffet there.

Four new members have joined us. ■

SCHOOL NEWS

School Board News

by Nancy Hamilton

An emergency meeting of the Roosevelt Board of Education was held on March 29, 2000 for the purpose of revising the budget for the year 2000-01. This action was necessary because the district received word on March 27th that we would be receiving an additional \$93,775 in State Aid. This stabilization aid is a one time only appropriation and was awarded to districts with high tax rates.

There was a great deal of discussion as to how to best utilize this money. It was initially proposed to keep this money in reserve to limit future tax increases, since taxes were already going down this year. The Board voted to apply two-thirds of this money to the 00-01 budget for immediate tax relief to Roosevelt homeowners. The Board voted to hold one third in reserve to limit future budget increases.

There continues to be a need for reliable tax relief on an annual basis. The Board stated its intention to continue its work to obtain such aid to the school.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, this report is incomplete. More information will appear in our next issue.

■

From The PTA

by Kelly Mitchell

The PTA will be sponsoring the following for the month of May:

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK
MAY 8TH THRU MAY 12TH

The PTA will be showing their appreciation to the whole staff of Roosevelt Public School by providing gifts of appreciation during the week

IN SEARCH OF EAGLES ASSEMBLY
MAY 10TH
RUNS FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM

An assembly will be provided for the school in which Rick Trader, who founded the "In Search of Eagle" Foundation, will be bringing his ultra-light airplane to show and educate the students on Ecology and Aviation. The program is educational, motivational and entertaining.

BIKE RODEO
MAY 11TH
STARTS AT 8:45 A.M.

The Bike Rodeo will consist of different stations in which every student's bike will be inspected as well as their Helmets. They will also be tested on all areas of bicycle safety. Trooper Tim Osborn will be on hand to teach the students. ■

Please Support Team Roosevelt

by Elly Shapiro

There are many Roosevelt residents who can be seen pursuing their interest in physical activity...walkers, bikers, runners and in-line skaters of all ages can be seen at various times of day, doing "their thing." Routines have been developed to suit the needs (physical and spiritual) of these groups in classes for aerobics, stepping, Tai Chi and Yoga, among others. Seeing these neighbors out and about, enjoying the fresh air and physical benefits made me feel guilty about having become a *bona fide* "couch potato" during my 4 semesters in a Master's program.

Then, one January morning, a full-page ad in the New York Times practically hit me between the eyes. Avon (the personal skin care, etc., people) was continuing its annual custom of holding 3-Day, 60-mile walks for Breast Cancer in cities across the U.S., in order to raise money for breast cancer screening and research. Since one of the venues was close enough for me to participate in, and since I try to challenge myself to achieve beyond what comes easily, I knew that I would sign up to participate. (Sometimes guilt can be a mighty motivator, know what I'm sayin'?) What better way to resolve some of my issues...a new year, a new outlook on life, and the ability to do some good for others, all the while training myself into shape.

Having sent out my fund-raising letters (each walker needs to raise a minimum of \$1,800 in pledges), I began to train. Now you can see me as one of a group of Rooseveltians who will be participating in this event.

Nancy and Michael Hamilton, and Liz Possiel, all long-time Roosevelt residents, have also committed to participate. Nancy is a breast cancer survivor and my fund-raising letter "hit home", prodding her and Mike to join the cause, and subsequently become my training partners. This Roosevelt contingent will be among 3,000 walkers who will participate in the New York walk.

The New York walk will take place on October 13-15, starting in Bear Mountain and ending in Manhattan. It is a well organized mini-city which follows the walkers, provides food and shelter, rest stops and encouragement, while raising millions of dollars to help under-served women get cancer screening for breast and other cancers. Many research facilities also benefit from the monies that are raised.

Through the generosity and caring of my friends and family, I have achieved my fund-raising goal. The others, having started later than I, still need the backing of philanthropists such as you!! Liz, Mike and Nancy have pledge forms with their respective walker numbers. Please call them so that they too can make their goals.

We need your support...financial and emotional. Please support "Team Roosevelt" in our effort to raise money and awareness for breast cancer. And, when you see us out walking - alone, in pairs or in groups...shout out some support. We will be holding some fund-raising events in the near future, and a victory party when we come marching home again.

Call any of us for more information. Hamilton: 443-5227; Possiel: 448-1485; or, Shapiro: 443-3575. ■



LETTERS

Dear Roosevelt Voters,

My name is Rose Murphy. I live on North Valley Road with my husband, Edward. We have lived in Roosevelt for 23 years.

I have been a member of the Borough Council for seven years. I am asking for your support to remain on Council.

I have been effective in working with members of the community and the Council in getting grants for the town. As Chair of Municipal Utilities, I have worked hard to make needed repairs while keeping costs under control.

I am asking for your vote in the June 6 Primary.

Thank you,

Rose D. Murphy



Dear Residents of Roosevelt:

Having filed, as far as I know, those documents necessary to appear on your ballots as a candidate for a seat on Borough Council in the upcoming elections, and I'd appreciate the chance to introduce myself and to ask for your support.

I'm running because I truly like this town. I moved here, in the mid-80's, impressed with the kind of folks that would build Solar Village and because I appreciate the unique sense of spaciousness, of openness and of neighborhood that are so much a part of Roosevelt.

Going to the Post Office for our mail; the high percentage of walkers in town; the letters we frequently found in the doorway from lots of people stating their opinions on lots of issues...creating a kind of cohesive community that's rare in this part of the world.

It was the kind of environment that motivated me to seek involvement on the Planning Board where, since the mid-90's, I've supported a "more of the same" approach to Roosevelt's future and, as the Board's recent Chair, chose an approach to last year's development proposal hearing that encouraged the active participation of the public during the testimony, rather than at the end.

I would like, with your support, to play a part on Council in keeping our town viable.

Thank you

Joe Zahora



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I have decided to come out of political retirement this year and run for the position of Democratic Committeewoman in Roosevelt. I am running with Kirk Rothfuss, who will fill the position of Democratic Committeeman. Some of you may remember that I held this elected position from 1988 - 1991.

The position of party committee person - in reality a member of the Monmouth County Democratic Executive Committee - is not a public policy position such as Borough Council. The registered Democrats in every voting district elect a woman and a man to take responsibility for the health of the Democratic party in that community. This means that it is up to the committee to identify qualified candidates for the Council and facilitate their election.

In my lifetime the Democratic party has stood for the rights of working people, the health of the environment, an end to discrimination against all the people who do not have the equal protection of the laws, and economic justice. I embrace these political goals; that is why I am a Democrat.

Last November we elected Michael Hamilton to be our Mayor because he is committed to sound financial management, responsible development and the preservation of Roosevelt's invaluable open space. In just four months in office, the Mayor has found a number of ways to save us tax dollars by directing the Chief Financial Officer to obtain a higher rate of interest on the Borough's bank accounts, and by working with citizens and the School Board to obtain State aid we have been denied.

He may well be constrained in other efforts by a Council whose members refuse to work with him. The Council blocked any consideration of selecting another borough attorney who might be able to save the community a \$250 fee unnecessarily to appear at every Council meeting.

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The present members of our Council, Democrats and Republicans, seem to be intent on obstructing the Mayor's proposals and denying a forum for discussion of options to the proposed development.

Apparently they wish to continue past methods of conducting Borough business in which, without opposition, the Council has created a sizeable budget surplus so that funds are available to make town improvement that developers require before they agree to begin building.

During my two-year term, I intend to seek out future candidates for Borough Council who share our Democratic values. Kirk Rothfuss and I will look for people who share Mayor Hamilton's vision of preserving our unique community, reducing taxes and sustaining our vital school. To this end, I am proud to be running with Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko, who are Council candidates, and with Kirk Rothfuss to co-chair the Democratic party in Roosevelt.

Sincerely,

Ann Baker



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

I am seeking your nomination for Democratic Committeeman in the June 6 primary election, and have the pleasure to team with Ann Baker as Democratic Committeewoman candidate. Both Ann and I are proud to run with and support two excellent candidates for Roosevelt Borough Council, Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko.

As Democratic Committeeman, I will seek out strong candidates for Council who will protect the interests of our community and proactively plan for its future. It is my belief that although our little town has many problems, Roosevelt continues to be a community where families of modest means can afford to purchase a home and live in a stable, supportive community. People from all walks of life come to Roosevelt because of its success in providing a peaceful, healthful and enriching environment. Roosevelt is open space, is our community-based school with ideal class sizes, is art and culture, is volunteerism and participatory politics, and is neighbors who want to know one another and be part of a responsibly-sized, livable community.

I believe the issue now facing our town is how to achieve

tax relief while preserving the desirable characteristics of Roosevelt. I don't believe that tax relief can only be achieved by giving up everything else that is good about our community. Recently our town Council has pursued large-scale development as the tax relief "silver bullet" in disregard of the realities that surround us. Surrounding communities (as well as our Governor and legislature) are scrambling to protect the last fragments of open space left after years of unchecked development - development that came with unfulfilled promises of holding down taxes. Mayor Mike Hamilton and candidates Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko will seek out fresh approaches to solving our financial problems.

Roosevelt is in the enviable position of still having many of the attributes that other towns have lost and can only wish they could recapture. I believe candidates Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko understand this and have the vision needed to achieve the best possible future for Roosevelt.

Please support Ann Baker and Kirk Rothfuss for Democratic Committee and Jeff Hunt and Neil Marko for Democratic Council on June 6, 2000.

Thank you,

Kirk Rothfuss



Dear Neighbors,

I am a candidate for Council in the upcoming Democratic primary in June. Let me introduce myself, and share with you some of the concerns which made me decide to run.

I have lived in Roosevelt for ten years, and visited relatives here for ten years prior to that. My wife's grandparents, aunt and father were among the first settlers in Jersey Homesteads. Each generation of this family has shared in the communal civic experience of Roosevelt including the Council, School Board and Planning Board. I have served the community on the First Aid Squad (6 years), the Planning Board (6 years), and the Council (3 years). I have a deep sense of commitment to this town, and a clear sense of its special history and value.

I will bring a set of opinions to the Council quite different from those held by present members. In my opinion, for instance, present members of the governing body (with the exception of Mayor Hamilton) have taken a very shortsighted and narrow-minded approach to finding

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ways to reduce your taxes. Reduction of taxes evidently being the key issue for many Roosevelt residents, it behooves responsible members of government to seriously look at all options. The present Council has done little other than to promote development as the way to alleviate your tax burden when there is ample evidence to support the argument that large scale development will only cause taxes to rise. In fact, increased costs this year alone resulting from development has already cost you an additional \$30,000, and the development hasn't even happened! This resulted from the increase to the Council's and Planning Board's anticipated legal costs. Other recent costs associated with the rush to develop include:

- \$60,000 (\$20,000 a year) for the next 3 years to increase the capacity of out sewer lines for developers,
- \$50,000 to pay for upgrades to our water treatment plant,
- \$20,000 down-payment for a new well estimated to cost \$150,000,
- and, this month the Council has been asked by the Planning Board to investigate the construction of a new water tower to supply the residents of the houses to be built near the cemetery. What will this cost you?

Another concern is evidence of mismanagement such as the loss of revenue due to poor oversight of the town finances. True, we retain a Chief Finance Officer for this purpose, but the responsibility for his actions, or inaction, rests with the Council. Last year, a potential \$30,000 in interest was lost due to inattention to the investment of town accounts. Action by Mayor Hamilton rectified this situation, but why was it never addressed before? If you begin to add things up, it seems to me that the Council members' inaction and negligence have cost us significant tax dollars.

I have opposed large scale development in the past and will continue to do so in the future. That is not to say that I would oppose all incremental, sustainable growth that would have no major impact on the town as we know it. But I will certainly oppose oversized projects which have little or no relation to the existing town, its greenbelt plan, its stature as a national historic site and its unique history and culture. Our open space is something which holds real value for each of us; it needs to be preserved to the extent possible. There are ways to do so without the sacrifices to developers that our Council members tell us are necessary; Rod Tulloss' efforts with the Fund for

Roosevelt have shown this clearly.

For years, the Council has carelessly squandered the possibility for a productive relationship with the School Board. Three quarters of your tax bill goes to the school, but there has been little or no constructive dialogue between the two bodies. There has been no Council action to support the recent initiative to receive \$300,000 in additional school aid. So far, this project has been led by the School Board, Mayor Hamilton and private citizens. Over the last several years, the Council's rep to the Board has not even attended their meetings regularly. It is time for the years of Council-School Board animosity to stop. Mayor Hamilton has expressed a desire to repair this damage and, considering his years of experience on the School Board, is the man for the job. Because of the joint efforts of the Mayor and School Board, the State gave the school \$93,775 in a special aid package that was applied to this year's school budget. As a result of these combined efforts, school taxes have already begun to go down. The average homeowner will see a tax decrease of between \$300 to \$400 this year. I support Mayor Hamilton strongly on initiatives like these, and will continue to as your Councilman.

There are other issues I will address in the next issue of the Bulletin, including the grossly excessive budget surplus and the Council's emphasis on spending tax dollars to make improvement to the water and sewer systems in order to make Roosevelt more attractive to developers. But when you add it up, the mismanagement, negligence and misguided efforts of the present Council members have cost us the very tax relief so many of us seek.

I ask you for your vote in June in the primary for Councilman. Feel free to call me at 443-9475 for questions or clarification on the issues.

Sincerely,

Jeff Hunt



Hello neighbors.

My name is Neil Marko and you will see me on the primary ballot running as a Democrat for Borough Council. For those of you who do not know me, I am a small businessman in the technology field. Before I ran my own business, I was an Assistant Vice President of Citibank in New York.

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There are many important issues facing Roosevelt, some new and some old, but the biggest issue for many is our burdensome local taxes and how we can maintain the wonderful community we have here in Roosevelt without selling out. I am running for Council to help my neighbors. I know for a fact that there are many ways to lower our taxes and improve or maintain our quality of life without the massive development desired by the current Council.

I am asking you for your support in this primary election, the first step of a long process. When I am your councilman, you will know that all decisions are made in the best interest of our community with no back room deals. On the ballot with me will be Jeff Hunt. Together Jeff and I will provide Roosevelt with fresh and open ideas and the new solutions we need to make Roosevelt the best town in New Jersey.

Thank you for your support.

Neil Marko
3 Eleanor Lane



To The Town of Roosevelt, NJ

Hello, my name is Fern Melvin from Belmont, VT. I read about your "Utopia" in our Sunday Newspaper a few weeks ago. It seems a bit strange for me to write to you in NJ about development.

I live in a small town close to Okemo Mtn. ski resort in Ludlow. We constantly feel the effects of its growth. The major traffic jams on the weekends and vacations, higher store prices and 2/3 of my town is made up of 2nd home owners. There are constant attempts to make us "bigger & better." No need to ask for who.

Your little town sounds wonderful!! My advice to you is to hold on tight to the things you hold dear. Once it's gone it's gone forever. It may seem like just a little development, but multiply those houses by 2-3 cars each. More kids in school, all your resources will be put to the test and now is the time to really think about it. The builders and architects will go home with their money and you will be left with the headaches. New people will come in and think new ideas...probably bigger ones. Development will be for money, mostly short term.

You have the opportunity to keep a piece of history alive and well and to be different. It's tempting to want to keep taxes down, but in a community people come and go because of a place's unique qualities. The people who are truly unhappy can move on or not. They have choices.

So good luck, hold on tight, a sense of well being doesn't always come from your wallet but from knowing you've done the right thing for now and the future.

Sincerely,

Fern Melvin



Letter to the Editor:

Back in the March 2000 issue of the Roosevelt Bulletin, I wrote an article about how the Roosevelt First Aid Squad is in dire need of membership. Well, since then only one person has stepped forward to help the Squad and the community. Time is running out. By June 31, 2000, the First Aid Squad will be down to just 3 EMT's.

I am hoping that the Mayor and Councilperson who is in charge of public safety will call me soon so we can possibly come up with a plan so the Squad stays open for business.

People in this town will start committees and use their own money for causes that they believe in, but they won't help their neighbors with life saving training. We are a unique community. As one person said, citizens have a responsibility to step up and take part in their community.

I hope that we don't wait until the last minute to act on this, the problem is here now. I do not have all the answers but I am at least trying to find some solutions.

Jack Rindt, President
Roosevelt First Aid Squad



LETTERS

To the Editor:

Roosevelt and its surroundings were changing by the 1980's. Ed Cedar and a few others were buying personal computers. The Notterman family had bought (from the Xerox Corporation, of all things) the land east of North Valley Road and within a few years sold a small part of it for more than they had paid Xerox for the whole. At the entrance to the unnamed dirt lane to the cemetery, a new tennis court had been built near the swimming pool and eleven large lots along the lane had been zoned for construction.

Our town was thriving. The attractive Solar Village retirement homes were being built. A new borough hall and garage for the fire truck replaced the old borough hall offices on Homestead Lane. The abandoned grocery store was being transformed into a modern post office. Next to it, the Rossis were opening a welcomed grocery store and restaurant. New houses were being built on vacant lots and new people were moving in.

The abandoned clothing factory on Oscar Drive was now producing food packaging machinery and kitchen cabinets and housing several artists' workshops. The little building next to it on North Valley Road continued being used to reclaim scrap metal. Next to that, the Nisnewitz building housed Ingrid Jordan's pottery and the fabrication of high-tech adhesives by an immigrant from mainland China.

Roosevelt was changing so rapidly that its first master plan in 1979 was almost immediately obsolete. To preserve memories of the past, some nostalgic people were interviewing the original settlers. Others were requesting the Department of the Interior to list Roosevelt on the National Register of Historic Places. Most residents, however, knew nothing about the town's history. Nor did they care.

Neighboring East Windsor Township, surrounding little Hightstown Borough, was growing rapidly, including the huge housing and industrial development of Twin Rivers. Many more buses were driving between Twin Rivers and Manhattan. Millstone was growing, attractive prosperous and successful families, some of them from Roosevelt, was growing rapidly. Sunny Heights, which had for twenty years welcomed nude sunbathers, was transformed into luxury housing lots. The Hechalutz Farm, on the way to Hightstown, no longer trained young idealists to farm in Israel.

To emphasize the transformation a nostalgic documentary film about the town's past was shown once at the Roosevelt Public School, and then forgotten. Ed Roskam's little book on Roosevelt - an elegy for a lost way of life and an expression of apprehension about the future - had been published several years earlier. As if to emphasize the passing of a tradition, Reverend John Grauel, the Righteous Gentile who had sailed on the Exodus, died. The town had failed long ago as a cooperative. It had failed to maintain its Jewish identity. It had failed to keep its name. Would it now fail as a community?

In the 1979 election, the mayoral seat won by a two to one majority but most of the Council members were partisans of the defeated candidate. The new Borough Council was faced with problems it could not recognize, let alone solve. The State was imposing new responsibilities and expecting towns to perform more competently. New people were moving into Roosevelt but were not being integrated into town life. The greatest change unperceived: Isadore Sachowitz was dead. No one had his long experience in recommending to the Council what to do.

The Council confused responsibility with power. It embarked on firing town employees: the borough clerk, the insurance agent, the borough engineer, the dog census taker and even Santa Claus who, to the joy of children, had toured the town on the fire engine at Christmas time.

It couldn't fire the Board of Education, so it got into litigation with the Board instead. It couldn't fire the Mayor, so it tried to hound him out of office. It couldn't fire the neighboring Township of Millstone but it could refuse to contribute to Millstone's legal fight against the installation by the State of a dangerous toxic waste incinerator.

When the Council took positive action, it did everything wrong. It resurfaced Homestead Lane without replacing the leaking water pipes under it. It allowed the burial of a corpse with no right to be buried in the cemetery. It claimed that an obnoxious odor came from a dead deer: the smell came from a very obvious pond of sewage flowing from a broken pipe.

As a private citizen, I revived the twice-a-year litter pick-up which Bernarda Shahn and Peter Berlinrut had organized in the seventies. I updated the town telephone book which the Sisterhood had published ten years before. I wrote about newcomers in the Bulletin. I did the annual dog census - there were about 135 dogs in

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town. I registered people to vote. I wrote a column in the Bulletin about interesting things Rooseveltians were doing.

Instead of being pleased, the Borough Council resented my initiatives. It fired me from doing the dog census. It ordered the sewer operator not to let me visit the sewer plant - with the predictable result that he went out of his way to take me through it and the equally predictable result that I wondered what the Council was hiding.

What is was hiding was this: before he died, Isadore Sachowitz had persuaded the Council to join a state-wide program and accept two 81 percent grants, a small grant to study how to raise the efficiency of our obsolete sewer plant and a much larger grant to buy new equipment. Deliberately or inadvertently, the Council ignored the program until the Department of Environmental Protection obtained a court order (by then the grant program had ended) threatening a heavy fine if the Council did not improve the sewer plant at the town's expense.

In the next issue, I will describe how Roosevelt met this financial crisis.

Peter Warren



Dear Editor,

The Roosevelt Borough Council has passed a resolution commending New Jersey State Trooper Chris Reinhart and also committing their support to the Community Policing Program. Recently, you've seen me and KC Sensi at the Post Office asking everyone to fill out forms to send to the State Police. Along with the forms are instructions on how to commend an officer or file a complaint. Anyone wishing a copy should contact me at 426-9850 or KC at stormraiser@home.com.

Since we do not have a police force in our Borough, we rely on the State Police. Thanks in part to a grant from the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Universal Hiring Grant, we have been assigned a State Trooper to patrol and provide community services including involvement with the children of Roosevelt Public School in our community. Our Trooper, Officer Chris Reinhart, does an excellent job.

We urge you to find out more about the Community Policing Unit and show them your support. You can find information about the COPS Grant at the Department of Justice site at <http://www.usdoj.gov/cops/> Without your support, this program will go by the wayside and you will realize too late how much the Community Policing Unit presence has meant to our community, both young and old. Our thanks to the New Jersey State Police Community Policing Unit for a job well done.

We'd like to thank the Hightstown Public Works Department for the loan of their Slow Down and 25 mph Speed Limit signs which are now decorating the lawns of Roosevelt.

And finally, please remember the speed limit on School Lane is 15 mph.

Kelly Mitchell
KC Sensi



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!

NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

by Mary Tulloss

FROM PARIS:

Henry John-Alder was visiting colleagues at the University of Paris and decided to participate in the Paris marathon on Sunday, April 9th. There were 32,000 entrants in the race and 27,500 finished. The course proceeded along the Avenue des Champs Elysees to the Place de la Concorde, then to the Bois de Vincennes, to the Bois de Bologne and then back towards the Arc de Triomphe. Henry finished 1,159th out of 27,500 and reported that, as usual, the race was 20 miles too long to be fun.

AWARDS RECEIVED:

In early April, Wayne Cokeley returned home from Orlando, Florida with a gold medal from the National FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competition. Wayne, a science teacher at North Brunswick High School, has been the advisor to the Raider Robotix team since its inception four years ago. In March the team won first place at the Mid-Atlantic Regionals at Rutgers where they competed against 40 teams from the northeast. After winning their regional, the team's sponsor, Bristol-Myers Squibb, sent the team of 20 students and 10 engineers and teachers to the national championship where the team matched their robot against 248 teams and, once again, won first place.

The vision of FIRST is to see a world where science and technology are celebrated, where kids think science is cool and dream of becoming science and technology heroes. The team members at North Brunswick became science heroes when Wayne and two of the robot's student drivers appeared on ABC's "Good Morning America" following their victory.

FROM CAMPUS:

Kathleen Alfare, daughter of Carlo and Mary Alfare of Lake Drive, received academic honors for the Fall, 1999 semester at Franklin & Marshall college.

FROM HIGHTSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL:

Hannah Stinson's writing will appear in the 2000 edition of *Aspirations*, a publication of Mercer County Community College.

Sarah Skillman and Liz Carroll were team leaders for the March of Dimes Walk America 2000 which took place on April 30th.

Eight HHS students were nominated to The Times' All-Star Academic Team by their teachers for excellence in one

or more of eight disciplines. Joanna Giordano was nominated in science.

FROM KREPS SCHOOL:

Ina Clark, daughter of Maureen and Bob Clark of Lake Drive, will be attending Peddie School this fall in the eighth grade.

FROM ROOSEVELT PUBLIC SCHOOL:

Erika Heden, sixth grade student, was awarded second prize in the Monmouth County Fair Housing calendar contest. She has also been selected to represent Roosevelt at the annual Student Recognition Program sponsored by the Monmouth County School Boards association. This program honors outstanding students from Monmouth County.

Nicole Leitner, second grade student, won second place, Division 1, in the Monmouth County Fire Prevention and Protection Association Poster contest. Nicole will receive a \$75 savings bond and her poster will now be sent to the State contest.

Students of the Month in Health for January and February were: Cecelia Ticktin, Vikki Adams, Ashley Lawson, Joseph Zahora, Heather Cordo, Joshua Fischer, Sam Husth, Julia Grayson, Danny Fisher, Jamey Silverstein, Jack Curry, Gabrielle Velasquez, Grace Lloyd, Daniel Garton, Naomi Goldman, Rachel Lopez, Larry Van Brunt and Jan Czyzewski.

Students of the Month in Physical Education were: Elliot Ellentuck, Samuel Lopez, Casey Ward, Ian Parsons, John Jackson, Jack Leech, Jamie Hague, Megan Plaska, Ben Adlerman, Samantha Mateyka, Sierra Howley, Samantha Cedar, Allison Harding, Michael Silverman, Lexi Cheshier, Lawrence Mendies, Devin Kostar, Emily Silverstein and Mathew Stinson.

The school dance took place on Friday, April 15th and a talent show organized by the sixth grade was held on Saturday, April 16th. The talent show was a money raising project for the sixth grade's Class Trip. ■

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

ROOSEVELT WEATHER

An April Anomaly?

by Ron Filepp

What a surprise it was to wake up Sunday morning, April 9 to find snow falling. At 7 a.m. the ground was already covered. Roosevelt's spring litter pick-up, scheduled for that morning, was postponed for a week. The snowfall continued until about noon. In town, snow accumulated to about two inches. Four inches fell in Trenton and 7.5 in High Point.

As the afternoon progressed grape hyacinths doffed their white caps and daffodils again stood as the white burden drained away in the heat of the sun. By the end of the day almost all the snow had melted. In a yard at the corner of Tamara Drive and South Rochdale, a large ball of dirty snow sat on a green lawn, the brown white and green ball the evidence of a good effort to build one more snowman.

Despite the hype of local television and radio news programs, the sight of snow in April should not be a great surprise. An April 13 snowstorm dropped 6.5 inches in 1875. On April 3, 1915, sixteen inches fell. Eighteen inches of snow fell on New Brunswick during April 17, 1854. In April 1982, two inches of snow accumulated on the sixth in our area. Other parts of the state got up to 14 inches of snow from that storm.

We don't have to look all the way back to 1982 to find a snowy day in April. Just four years ago on April 9, a moderate snowfall was recorded around 11 a.m. in Roosevelt. That day the Yankees' played their home opener while the snow fell. No accumulation resulted during the day.

That evening snow began to pile up and by the small hours of April 10, 6.5 inches of wet snow was on the ground. The storm left 28 thousand residents in the state without power. In Roosevelt, we had a brief power outage on the night of the ninth.

Another April Observation

On the evening of April 6, I drove along the new Hightstown bypass (Route 133) on my way to pick up Robin at Princeton Junction train station. It was clear mild and breezy. I kept check of the sliver of moon in the western sky. Approaching the Turnpike overpass, I noticed what appeared to be illuminated clouds that formed two pinkish purple curtains along the western and northern horizons. The curtains rose high into the sky.

March 15 - April 15, 2000

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip
15	68.0	37.0	52.5	0.00
16	70.5	49.0	59.8	0.00
17	48.5	32.0	40.3	1.25
18	40.0	23.0	31.5	0.22
19	47.0	27.5	37.3	0.00
20	44.0	32.0	38.0	0.00
21	43.0	39.5	41.3	0.00
22	49.0	40.0	44.5	0.10
23	63.0	33.0	48.0	0.00
24	67.0	39.0	53.0	0.00
25	74.0	40.0	57.0	0.00
26	67.0	43.0	55.0	0.00
27	68.0	34.0	51.0	0.00
28	62.0	34.0	48.0	0.81
29	49.5	42.0	45.8	0.00
30	64.0	36.0	50.0	0.00
31	59.0	33.0	46.0	0.00
1	65.0	32.0	48.5	0.00
2	68.0	45.0	56.5	0.00
3	74.0	57.0	65.5	0.00
4	69.5	60.5	65.0	0.00
5	50.0	40.0	45.0	0.15
6	71.0	34.0	52.5	0.00
7	69.0	46.0	57.5	0.00
8	78.0	48.0	63.0	0.00
9	50.0	35.0	42.5	0.50
10	57.0	36.0	46.5	0.00
11	55.5	40.0	47.8	0.00
12	54.0	46.0	50.0	0.09
13	55.0	30.0	42.5	0.00
14	65.0	32.0	48.5	0.00
15	67.0	46.0	56.5	0.00
Total Precipitation 3.12				

Continued on Page 22

Chicken Anyone?



by Louise Rosskam

It was spring of 1954... We were returning from 12 years in the tropics to Roosevelt, New Jersey, where we had arranged to purchase a house. That is, we thought we had purchased a house. But on the day of our departure with two small children and a house full of furniture, we found that the house in Roosevelt had been withdrawn from the market.

Well...we stashed our kids with my sister in Philadelphia, put our furniture on hold at Newark Airport, and looked for another house in Roosevelt. As soon as we found one we heaved a sigh of relief, signed the papers, and took up residence. That meant sleeping on the floor the first night of our new empty house and waking up (very stiff) in the morning ready to look around town for a restaurant for breakfast. Restaurant... In Roosevelt??? No hope of such a thing. But when we opened our new door, lo and behold, right before our astonished eyes was a basket filled with a thermos of hot coffee, newly baked biscuits, a jar of orange juice, a pat of butter and a dollop of homemade jam! No name, just an aura of welcome.

Sooner or later, our furniture arrived, our kids were brought "home" and we began to meet our Roosevelt neighbors. In quantity...! People arrived with gifts, advice (lots of it) and invitations to join the....well, all sorts of organizations. As our lives made adjustments, we wanted to reciprocate in some way for all the help we had been receiving. That's when the Rosskam Chicken Route started. I found that an occasion in Roosevelt called for a thoughtful gift. A graduation; a barmitzva; a coming home from the hospital; a birth...even a death. Since the one thing I knew how to produce, and which was a bit novel, was my method of roasting a chicken. So, I started to walk over to whose ever house it was, carrying one of my newly roasted chickens.

And that's the origin of Ralph Seligman's line: "If you see Louise Rosskam walking around town with a Roast Chicken, something must have happened."

You too can become a bearer of gifts. Go ahead and put the chicken in the oven. I'm sure you'll enjoy it.

Continued on Page 21

Continued from Page 20

Roskam Roast Chicken Marinade

1/4 cup Soy Sauce
1/4 cup Olive Oil
1/4 cup Wine Vinegar
2 tablespoons Balsamic Vinegar
1/2 cup Dry White Wine
Juice of 1/2 lemon
1 tablespoon sugar
2 cloves Minced Garlic

Roskam Stuffing

To stuff chicken if desired:

1 cup cooked rice (you may have brought it home from the Chinese restaurant)
1/2 cup roast chicken marinade
1/2 to 1 cup chopped Chinese water chestnuts
3 tablespoons chopped garlic
2 tablespoons chopped parsley

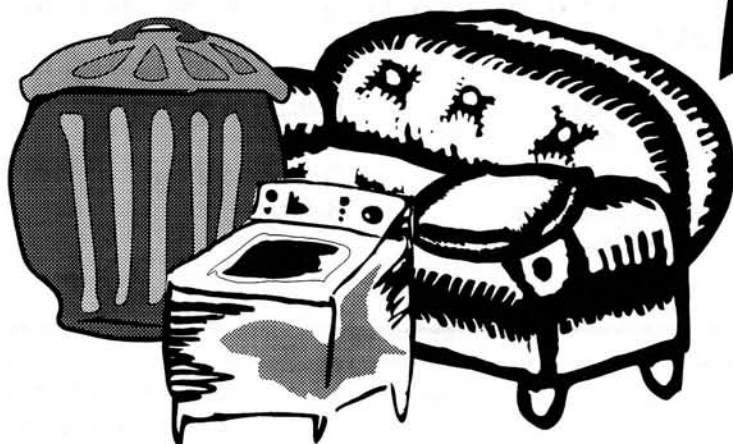
To Prepare Chicken:

Clean a small roasting chicken, dry inside and out. In a deep bowl, soak chicken in marinade for at least two hours or overnight. Turn it occasionally to coat it with the marinade. When ready to roast:

Preheat oven to 500 degrees for ten minutes. Stuff or truss with an onion in the cavity. Lower oven temperature to 375 degrees. Lightly stuff roaster, sew up cavity and truss. Place marinated roaster in uncovered roasting pan, breast side up. Roast for approximately one hour, basting it occasionally with marinade.

15 minutes before removing the roast from the oven, brush the surface with 2 tablespoons of Ginger Preserve. This will give the roast a crisp brown surface.

Remove it from the oven, place on a serving platter surrounded with parsley or other vegetables or salads. ■



May
8th

It's BIG GARBAGE Day

ROOSEVELT WEATHER ALMANAC

Continued from Page 19

Many people throughout the area reported seeing the phenomenon. It was confirmed to have been an Aurora Borealis. I felt a sense of awe at its instantaneous shimmering formation. If you didn't see that April 6 display, keep watch. Although it is rare to see an Aurora Borealis at our latitude, this year chances of a sighting are improved because sunspot activity is at the peak of an eleven-year cycle.

Weather Forecasts Emotions

While surfing some weather web sites recently, I found a lighthearted article titled "AccuWeather.com Survey Looks at How the Weather Affects our Lifestyles." Some findings of the informal survey of 850 people nationwide include:

Couples reported arguing twice as much on sunny days than on rainy days.

Men were two times more likely to tell their wives they loved them on rainy days compared to sunny days.

Sixty-nine percent of those women surveyed reported confessing their love on cloudy days.

A boss' dream: 92 degrees and sunny. Sixty-three percent of people surveyed reported working late when the temperature was higher than normal.

On rainy days, people were three times more likely to eat meat than on sunny days. ■

Weather Event

On May 20, 1915, a brilliant solar halo that featured five rings of color was seen in all parts of the state.

Weather Word

A marine rainbow is seen in the spray of the ocean. Optically it is the same phenomenon as an ordinary rainbow.

CALLING ALL ARTIST, MUSICIANS, COMPOSERS, SINGERS, POETS, DANCERS, PLAYWRIGHTS, ACTORS, DIRECTORS, ...

The Roosevelt Arts Project invites suggestions and proposals for events for the 2000-2001 series. If you have an idea for an evening of the arts of any kind, please let any of the Trustees of the Arts Project know. Whether it's something you want to produce or just something you'd like to see or hear, get your idea to any of the following by May 15 so that you can be included in the planning for next season. The Trustees of the Arts Project appreciate your support and hope you'll help create a season that will challenge and delight.

David Herrstrom, President
Robin Middleman, Vice-President
David Brahinsky, Treasurer
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Naomi Brahinsky
David Keller

Richard Lloyd
Brad Garton
Deborah Metzger
Bob Mueller

Calendar of Events

Continued from Back Cover

22 Mon. 7:30 p.m. Council Committee Meetings,
Borough Hall,
Mayor Michael Hamilton,
443-5227

24 Wed. RECYCLE

29 Mon. Memorial Day RPS Closed
Borough Hall closed

JUNE

1 Thurs. 7:30 p.m. PTA Meeting, RPS, President
JoAnne Parker, 448-5619

5 Mon. 7:30 p.m. Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor
Michael Hamilton, 443-5227

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

1999 - 2000 Season

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

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

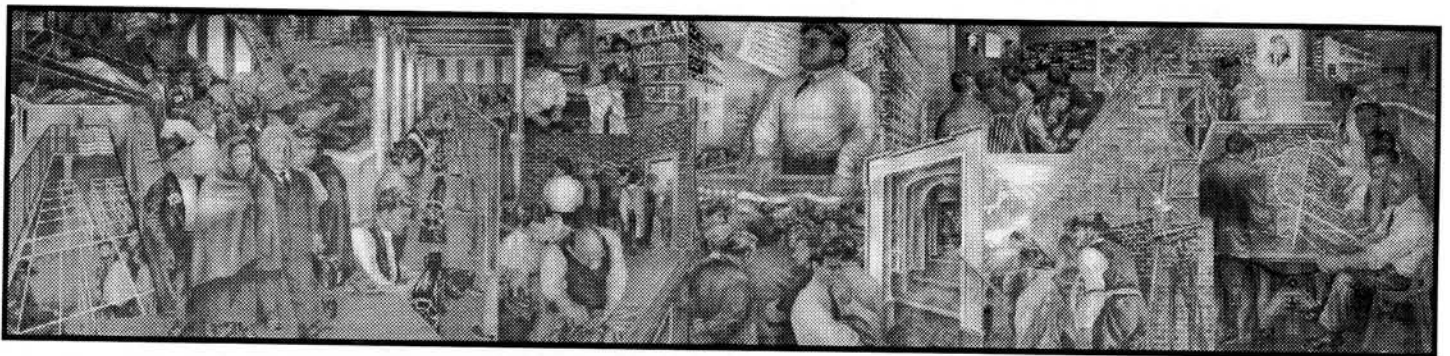
Friday, Saturday & Sunday May 19, 20 & 21
Light as a Feather

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

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

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

MURAL POSTCARDS AVAILABLE THROUGH ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT



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

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1999 - 2000

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

THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN
 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.

BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and business, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax deductible (suggested: \$40.00/year, \$50.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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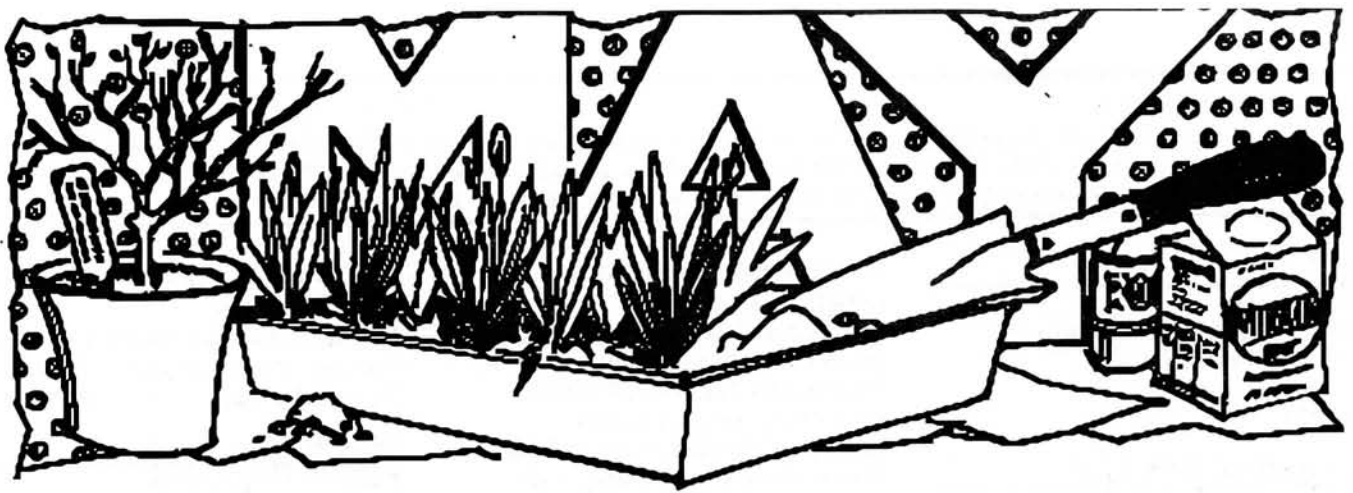
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Please send your events and activities to Jane Rothfuss, 448-3713 or email: kirk@virtulink.com
 Every Monday 6:45 p.m. - RPS Step Aerobics Exercise Class
 Every Wednesday 6:45 p.m. - RPS Kick Boxing Exercise Class
 Call Kathy Masella at RPS for more information, 448-2798

MAY

1	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Agenda Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
2	Tues.	1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting and Blood Pressure Check, Borough Hall
4	Thurs.	3:00 p.m.	Municipal Auction, Borough Hall, 448-0539, items may be viewed between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
		7:30 p.m.	Board of Education Reorganization Meeting, RPS, Board Secretary Karen Minutolo, 448-2798
6	Sat.	9:00 a.m.	PTA Town Wide Yard Sale, Jill Lancaster, 448-6038; PTA Flower Sale, Outside Post Office, President JoAnne Parker, 448-5619
		2-3:00 p.m.	Rabies Clinic, rear Borough Hall Garage
7	Sun.		PTA Town Wide Yard Sale, Jill Lancaster, 448-6038
8	Mon.	6am - 6pm	Big Pick Up, have items out to the curb by 6 a.m., for information call the Borough Hall, 448-0539 PTA - Teacher Appreciation Week Begins
		7:30 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227

10	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	RECYCLE Planning Board Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairwoman Gayle Hunton, 426-4338
14	Sun.		Mother's Day
15	Mon.	7:30 p.m.	Council Committee Meetings, Borough Hall, Mayor Michael Hamilton, 443-5227
		7:30 p.m.	Synagogue Board Meeting, Michael Ticktin, 448-0363
17	Wed.	8:00 p.m.	Environmental Commission Meeting, Borough Hall, Chairman Rod Tulloss, 448-5096
18	Thurs.	7:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting, RPS, President JoAnne Parker, 448- 5619
19	Fri.	6 - 8 p.m.	RAP Project - Light As a Feather Opening Reception, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867
20	Sat.	Hours to be Announced	RAP Program -Light as a Feather, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867
21	Sun.	Hours to be Announced	Rap Program - Light as a Feather, Borough Hall, Judith Trachtenberg, 426-8867

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