

Bulletin

Volume 32 Number 2

November 2008

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

By Michael Ticktin

After Delay, Council Adopts Municipal Budget With 20% Increase in Local Purpose Tax; Donation Received from Former Resident to Defray Legal Expenses; New Zoning Officer to be Appointed

Four months after the usual June adoption date, the Council, at its October 15 meeting, finally adopted the municipal budget for 2008. Since the budget and tax rate increases exceed the statutory cap limitations, the Council had to await approval from the Local Finance Board in the Department of Community Affairs before taking final action to approve the budget. Tax bills based on the actual 2008 municipal, county and school budgets will now be issued for the fourth quarter of 2008 and the first half of 2009.

The budget forecasts an increase in municipal taxes in the amount of \$87,369.62, an increase of just over 20% from 2007. The increase in the local purpose tax is 8.9 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation, from 44.1 cents to 53 cents. The increases, which were necessary despite freezing of salaries and reductions in other

line items, are mostly attributable to legal expenses.

Also at the October 15 meeting, Mayor Beth Battel welcomed Ralph Kirkland, whom she announced she will be appointing as zoning officer, subject to confirmation by the Council, once the anticipated letter of resignation is received from Bill Schmeling. Arlene Stinson, chairwoman of the Administrative Committee, said that the committee had met with Mr. Kirkland and was pleased to recommend his appointment. He currently serves as the zoning officer of the Borough of Englishtown. Mayor Battel said that she expects the Council to be in a position to confirm Mr. Kirkland's appointment next month.

Reporting for the Utilities Committee, Councilman Bob Silverstein reported that a new grit chamber chain had been installed at the sewage disposal plant, thus

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 32nd edition of the *Roosevelt Borough Bulletin*.

As usual, there will be nine issues starting with October through July, 2009, leaving out January 2009.

We will do our best to make the *Bulletin* both informative and interesting with the help of our devoted writers and production people.

If you want to contact the *Bulletin*, please look at our masthead to the right with our address and telephone number as shown.

NOTE! New dates and times for the Council meetings. They are the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7 p.m. Come and see what's happening!

Please report any bear sightings to:
State Bureau of Wildlife Management
Kim Tinnes
Wildlife Control
609-259-7955

As well as to David Schwendeman, 443-6204



Parents: It has come to our attention that many children as well as teenagers have been playing in the streets. Before there is an accident because of on-coming cars, please make sure that this practice is stopped.

PLEASE REMEMBER: Thoughtful neighbors pick up after their dogs. Are you a thoughtful neighbor?

We are sorry to have to report that the McCuskers' wonderful "Greenbelt Gossip" will not be appearing this month as they are moving out of town.

We all want to thank them for their wonderful, beautiful, and informative pieces and wish them much joy in their new home.

Seniors: Be sure to note that our November meeting will be on Monday, November 3 instead of Tuesday, November 4 because of Election Day.

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From the Mayor

By Elsbeth Battel

Dear Neighbors,

There are frightening words in the air recently, unrelated to Halloween. Words like “foreclosure,” “subprime” and “bad lending practices.” Hopefully many of our citizens aren’t affected by these words, but for those who are, the State is offering help. The Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency (HMFA) has the Homeownership Preservation Refinance Program (HPRP) to provide an affordable financing alternative to borrowers whose current mortgage is no longer suitable for their financial situation. HPRP is designed to assist borrowers with hardships caused by rate resets on adjustable rate mortgage loans. For details, call 1-800-NJ HOUSE or visit online at www.stateNJ.US/dca/hmfa/.

Residents interested in helping the effort to control rising taxes may want to consider sending a letter to Governor Corzine opposing the State’s decision to charge rural com-

munities for State Police coverage. The New Jersey State Police were established in 1921 to patrol rural areas. Our townships return large sums of money to the State for all State Police ticket fines issued in our communities. All municipalities benefit from the services of the State Police, at no cost to the municipalities, so to single out the rural communities would be unfair.

Millstone Township has offered to share their Web site with us for the purpose of protesting this mandate. To send a letter to Governor Corzine simply go to www.Millstone.NJ.US and click on send a letter.

Now for some good news: Merrill Goozner, who grew up here in Roosevelt, has sent the Borough a very generous donation to help us with our legal expenses. Thank you, Merrill!

Beth ■

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 1

allowing the grit chamber to function properly after 14 months.

Reporting for the Public Works Committee, Councilman Dan Hoffman stated that he had received verbal complaints about how garbage and recycling containers are left by the contractor after pick-up, but that, in order to get the contractor to take corrective action, the Council needs complaints to be in writing and signed.

Councilman Jeff Ellentuck reported that he is seeking to set up an official website and, for that purpose, to obtain use of the name www.roosevelt.nj.us. At his request, the Council authorized payment of up to \$400 for that purpose, as well as payment to an internet service provider of up to \$15 per month. He also commended the Borough’s budgetary professionals, CFO George Lange and auditor Jerry Stankiewicz

for their presentation before the Local Finance Board.

The Council also passed a resolution accepting a donation of \$1,000 for legal expenses from Merrill Goozner, a former resident who grew up in Roosevelt. Mayor Battel thanked Mr. Goozner for this demonstration of support for the community. ■

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. Contributions are tax deductible

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.

From the Office of the Principal, Shari Payson

October and November events. Our wonderful PTA is well on the way to planning many exciting programs and celebrations. They sponsored a wonderful character education assembly for all students entitled, *Aesop and the Bully*. The Book Fair was a tremendous success. Thank you to all that volunteered and to all that purchased and donated books. The PTA provided a story time hour for children during the evening portion of the fair. The traditional Trick or Treat evening is October 31st. Join us for Halloween treats and festivities.

Our classes will soon be involved with the upcoming election. This is an opportunity for students to read newspapers, analyze media programs, and get involved with discussions about candidates. On Election Day, students will vote for representatives from their classrooms to the Student Council. In this way, we hope to show them the importance of voting and the way the system works in this country. I hope everyone who can, will set an example by voting. Remember to bring your children with you so they can see this process in action.

Red Ribbon Week began October 23rd. Drug and alcohol prevention activities were included in the curriculum. Students and staff wore red ribbons and bracelets to demonstrate their support of this worthwhile campaign.

American Education Week is November 16th-22nd. Families are invited to visit their child's classroom on Tuesday, November 17th to watch the teaching/learning process in action. This year's theme, *Great Public Schools: A Basic Right*

and *Our Responsibility* spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great.

The Roosevelt Public School grounds look just beautiful and quite picturesque in the autumn. I hope that everyone who considers the playground as the town park (as it is) will treat the grounds with respect. We often find litter, alcohol and soda cans, broken glass, and cigarettes. Let's all work together to keep the school grounds safe and beautiful!

Thanks to Ms. Glickman, our general/instrumental music teacher, we have a brand new music curriculum. The new curriculum incorporates more singing and music appreciation into the curriculum than before. It is aligned with the State mandated New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards and it encompasses Pre-k through 6th grades. Thank you Beth.

We have purchased the upgraded version of our Everyday Math program. The new program contains many differentiated activities to meet student's instructional needs and learning styles. Mrs. Gazzani and Mr. Gershman are working on the curriculum revisions.

Very soon the sixth graders will be embarking on their major fundraiser. They will be selling delicious pies for Thanksgiving. If you wish to order pies, you may download the form from our website by accessing www.rps1.org and selecting the Backpack link. We expect to receive the pies on or about November 24th,

just in time for Thanksgiving. You can be assured that the pies will be wonderful. On behalf of the sixth grade students, thank you to everyone for your continued support of the 6th grade fundraisers and the school.

Thank you to everyone who signed up for our Target program. RPS received a check for \$300.00, which will be used for instructional supplies for our students. Should you wish to sign up for this, visit www.target.com for more information.

Enjoy the beautiful fall season and have a wonderful Thanksgiving! ■

NOVEMBER/ DECEMBER EVENTS

NOVEMBER

10/1	School Closed
11/4	Early Dismissal – Election Day
11/6 & 7	School Closed
11/14	Pizza
11/20	BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
11/26	Early Dismissal
11/27 & 28	School Closed

DECEMBER

12/3	PTA Meeting 7:30 pm
12/5	Pizza
12/24 to	
1/2/09	School Closed
1/3/09	School Reopens

Garage Bands, Yes, but a Garage Opera?

How two neighbors with the help of neighbors built an opera

by Blake Stone

It was an unlikely project that Mark Zuckerman proposed one sticky day in the summer of 2003 to a neighbor across the street, puttering innocently in his garage: "I want to write an opera but I need a libretto. Could you write one?" Emerging into sunlight, David Herrstrom accepted the challenge, and this December 1 at 8 p.m. at the Nicholas Music Center in New Brunswick, Rutgers University will host an admission-free concert version of Act II of the *The Outlaw and the King*, the final act of their chamber opera hatched in a Roosevelt, NJ, garage over five years ago.

Neighbors by chance, it helped that Mr. Zuckerman and Mr. Herrstrom were composer and poet, respectively, holders of Ph.D.'s from Princeton (music composition) and New York University (English literature), as well as recipients of music and poetry fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, but it's been a long journey for the two artists who still had to make a living while working on the opera, Mr. Herrstrom as a

Vice President at Citigroup in New York, commuting to Manhattan and Tampa on alternate weeks, and Mr. Zuckerman as software developer and consultant.

It's one thing to agree in the heat of the moment, but where to start, what story to tell, so Mr. Zuckerman proposed Chekhov's play, *A Marriage Proposal*, but Mr. Herrstrom was understandably reluctant to compete with Chekhov, to adapt a ready-made drama, and proposed instead a libretto based on a very old and well-known story, a favorite of his since childhood when, as he admits, "I remember assigning roles to my friends and acting out the violent, and what has become for me the intensely psychological biblical drama of King Saul, Jonathan, and David."

Tentatively, Mr. Zuckerman agreed, and Mr. Herrstrom wrote a scenario for a libretto called "David & Saul" in three acts, whose basic premise, still the spine of the opera, was how David's growing love of himself as the chosen one, coming to identify his will with God's, leads to the destruction of those who love him and whom he most loves—Saul and Jonathan, his adopted father and brother.

Yet how is it, we ask, that an ancient story centered on the triangle of a late bronze-age Israelite king, his

prince, and his favorite, has relevance to us and our neighbors in 2008? Why would we care about the conflict between King Saul and his demons, or between the king and his upstart favorite, David, who ultimately turns guerrilla warrior and displaces him?

The answer to both questions, Mr. Herrstrom explains, is that "this tragic story, where the bonds of love are rent by the necessity of self-creation and the demands of succession, is one woven into the fabric of our families and society. It is a familiar story of psychological conflict and incipient violence. The personal struggle for power only too often becomes a political struggle that affects us all. Once power is gained, it becomes entitlement, as if granted by God or the fates themselves. And in our age we know well the dangers of identifying one's own will with God's."

The composer was sold, and on numerous commuter bus trips to New York and flights to Tampa, Mr. Herrstrom drafted Act I of a libretto for "David & Saul" by April, 2004. Then his nights of hammering out with Mr. Zuckerman over a bottle of wine began, revising and arguing and revising some more, soliciting comments from an ex-neighbor, the playwright

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SENIOR CLUB NEWS

HOLIDAY PARTY FOR ALL ROOSEVELT SENIORS (60 and up)

ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 AT 1 p.m. (snow date 12/18)

AT BOROUGH HALL

TICKETS \$3.00 PER PERSON

NO ADMISSION WITHOUT A PRE-PURCHASED TICKET

Tickets must be purchased prior to December 9. No sales after this date.

To purchase tickets call:

Gerry Millar 448-0351

Karen Block 426-1560

OUTLAW

Continued from Page 5

Neil Selden, and of their growing sense that the tight family story of Saul, Jonathan and David needed to include another point of view. This resulted in Mr. Zuckerman's drafting a scenario with "George," a placeholder name, who would provide another perspective on the family struggle. From this suggestion, and based on Saul's servants in the biblical story, Mr. Herrstrom invented Zerubbabel, a husky, no-nonsense armor-bearer to King Saul who views life from the trenches rather than the court benches.

With all characters present, including a chorus of women introduced early on who comment ironically on the action, and after comments from another neighbor, the writer Judith McNally, and more revisions, by September Mr. Herrstrom delivered a complete first act now titled, at his wife's suggestion in order to better capture the conflict, *The Outlaw and the King*. And by the end of the year, Act II was complete, but now how to get perspective as librettist and composer on the draft? The answer, of course: invite the neighbors.

So they did, enlisting the help of the Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP), a small, grass-roots arts group of some 20 years, dedicated to getting work out to their neighbors and beyond, as well as encouraging collaboration among artists. Mr. Herrstrom recruited neighbors and ex-neighbors, the poets Rod Tulloss, David Keller, and Scott Carpenter, as well as actor Judith Goetzman, singer David Brahinsky, and playwright-director Richard Lloyd to stage a dramatic reading of the libretto in the local Borough Hall, free to everyone in town.

Over 60 neighbors attended the reading on February 5, 2005, answered questions following the reading, such as, "If a friend asked you tomor-

row what Saul is like, what would you answer?" and continued a lively discussion with the librettist and composer far into the evening. Maybe their enthusiasm was because, as one writer, Robert Friedman described it, the libretto-play had a "sense of strangeness to it – the feel of ancient voices speaking," or because of the "force of the narrative" or its "jagged" language, or perhaps the "poignancy" of the ending, who knows, but they came and expressed their opinions freely.

Having gained a fresh perspective on the libretto after reviewing the comments from his neighbors, and encouraged by their response, Mr. Herrstrom returned to his seat on the commuter bus and plane to rewrite—cutting, tightening, cutting some more, sharpening characters, emphasizing Saul's coming unhinged—and after more hammering out with his collaborator, Act I of *The Outlaw and the King* was ready for music at last. As Mr. Herrstrom turned to Act II, Mr. Zuckerman, excited by musical ideas inspired by the libretto reading, tackled the monumental task of composition, writing the opening bar almost two years after he first conceived the idea one hot summer day in 2003. The composition of Act I took a little over a year, with the composer subjecting the librettist (and both their wives) to periodic impromptu renditions as each section was completed, singing all the parts with synthesizer accompaniment.

While libretto revisions were being done on buses, trains, and planes, Mr. Zuckerman was working hard to get support for a concert version of the first act, talking with the new chair of the Rutgers University Music Department, Antonius Bittmann, who enlisted the support of faculty member Pamela Gilmore in taking on the opera within the framework of a special section of Rutgers' semester-length Opera Workshop course in the Department of Music, and by the summer of 2005 they set a date for an Opera Workshop performance under the auspices of the

Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University.

Deadline in mind, Mr. Zuckerman now plunged into composition, completing the music for the first Workshop rehearsal of Act I in September, 2006. Mr. Zuckerman and several members of the Rutgers faculty provided instruction during the semester, most of the performers being Rutgers doctoral candidates taking the course for credit, supplemented by outside professional singers. Mr. Zuckerman's collaboration with the Rutgers Opera Workshop proved to be a unique artistic partnership; "nowhere else does a composer have the opportunity to develop a large-scale musical work over the course of several months." As the course met throughout the term, he was able to make changes to the score in response to suggestions from the performers and to what he heard in rehearsal.

The Workshop culminated in a December 15, 2006, performance in Schare Recital Hall on the Rutgers University campus. Under the direction of Rutgers Professor Judith Nicosia, and performed by Peter Ludwig (Saul), Michael Ashby (David), Justin Johnson (Jonathan), and Charles Schneider (Zerubbabel), as well as Bethany Reeves, Adrienne Alexander, and Patrice Jegou (Hannagail trio), with Cristina Pato accompanying on piano, the concert version of Act I, based on faith in a poet neighbor and inspired by neighbors not shy about reacting vociferously to the opera's story and characters, met with an enthusiastic response from an overflow audience—over 100 people demanding a curtain call.

Buoyed by this response, Mr. Herrstrom and Mr. Zuckerman went on to complete Act II of *The Outlaw and the King*, debating,

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Childhood Memories

My parents did a lot to make some really good childhood memories for me and my brothers and sister. My Mom worked her way through college and was an elementary school teacher until shortly after she married my Dad. She made our house a comfy home. She took care of the celebrations: Mom was the one who made sure the house was seasonally decorated and cooked the traditional meals for all of the holidays. She made sure that each of us got our favorite supper on our birthdays and planned all the parties. It was Mom who pushed for the family trips and, no doubt, made any reservations needed. I have her to thank for lots of memories because of all of her planning, shopping, cooking, and love. But she was also the one who, when the time came for each of us, broke the news that there was no Santa or Easter Bunny. Somebody had to do it and she stepped up to the plate on that one, too.

She got very involved in the Girl Scouts when my sister and I were Scouts and was often a local “cookie chairperson.” I remember our home’s enclosed side porch being filled almost to the ceiling with cases of Girl Scout cookies and, as the selling progressed, it slowly emptying out. I don’t remember if she ever went on our Scout camping trips, but I know she and my Dad both helped my sister and me get ready for the great outdoors.

My Dad liked being a Dad. He was in his late forties when I, the youngest of his four kids, was born. He grew up in a family with five sisters and three brothers, so he was used to a full household; but my Mom, as good a mother as she was, prob-

ably would have had to have been peeled off the ceiling at the end of the day if there were any more than the four of us. My Dad was a shift-worker and, in between trying to get some sleep when he was on the night shift with us four kids running around the house and his time on the job, he managed to get involved quite a bit with us growing up.

My Dad even included our pals from the neighborhood in the fun he cooked up for us. I grew up in Plainfield, New Jersey, in a neighborhood which, at the time, had quite a few kids the same age as we were and the parents pretty much had the same rules and age-specific curfews, household to household. He would find out who could get permission, and then take us ice skating down in our neighborhood park. It was a ritual every winter to try on the collection of old ice skates to see which ones fit whom that year. In the summer, it was roller skates. And when the local firehouse’s Dalmation mascot had her pups, he gathered a couple of us up and drove us over to see them. I don’t know what was more thrilling for us: seeing the puppies or the inside of a firehouse; but sometime after that excursion, he made a huge wagon the shape of a fire truck (it could hold four little kids) and gave us rides up and down the block on the sidewalk. Another time he brought us to the train station in

town: The attraction, besides seeing the trains, was to walk through the tunnel that ran under the East- and Westbound tracks—exciting stuff for a little kid. He also included us in the adventure of getting his car inspected at the old inspection station in town. If the car failed, his personal goal was to take care of whatever had to be done to the car, bring it back, and get it passed through inspection that very same day.

He was really good with wood-working and improvising when needed. He was always making something. He had enough tools and scrounged stuff to fix or make just about anything with what he had stashed in the garage or the basement. I have noticed lately that our tiny Roosevelt garage has gotten to be pretty well packed but it’s nowhere near the benchmark of clutter of my Dad’s garage. And, the only time I can clearly recall seeing more than just a small path of cement floor in our old basement was when the house was being sold.

Cluttered as his “space” was, I do remember that he could put his hands on anything he needed. He made swings, stilts, seesaws, playhouses, tree houses, and he even made a sandbox/pool out of his old Sea Scout boat for us. Thinking back, the sandbox/pool must have pained him a little when the time



Me as a toddler “helping” my folks by painting our white house with the dark green, oil-based door paint.

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OUTLAW (CONT'D.)

Continued from Page 6

writing and rewriting, and garnering financial support from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation and the Edward T. Cone Foundation for this coming winter's concert performance. The foundation support made it possible to have a completely professional presentation, complete with instruments. Four male characters and a trio of women as the voice of God comprise the cast. The opera is scored for woodwind quintet, harp and percussion.

By turns "quiet and tumultuous," as one critic has said, "seductive and threatening, Mr. Zuckerman's powerful music wonderfully expresses conflicts as old as the human heart." And, of course, an opera in the end is the music. Music that can be heard in Act II, the final act of *The Outlaw and the King: David & Saul, a Tragedy*, made by two Roosevelt neighbors for neighbors everywhere, in a concert with chamber orchestra, Judith Nicosia music coordinator and Andrew Cyr conductor, with professional singers, including former Rooseveltian David Arnold (Saul), Brian Vandenberg (David), Matthew Morris (Jonathan), and John-Andrew Fernandez (Zerubbabel), as well as Angela Bianca Beaton, Adrienne Alexander, and Barbara Mergelsberg (Hannagail chorus), free of charge at 8 p.m., December 1, 2008, at the Nicholas Music Center, Douglass campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, a milestone marking five years on a long journey.

For this is not the end of two neighbors' journey from a garage, just the beginning. After December's concert performance and further revisions, the two will seek funding for a full-scale performance by a regional opera company, reminded constantly that it takes a village to make, let alone stage and perform an opera.

MOWER GIVEAWAY

by Shari Payson

Old Bobcat riding mower
Needs Work
Does not Run

Will be given away via lottery drawing on 11/21.

You must have the means to move the mower to your location.

If interested, E-mail Shari Payson at spayson@rps1.org.

Please provide your name address and phone number in the e-mail.

RESCUE SQUAD NEWS

by Jack Rindt, EMT-D

The Squad so far this year has responded to 50 calls in town and out of town. Our last calls were difficulty breathing, a host of medical emergencies and mutual aid in Millstone Twp.

The latest training that the Squad members have attended was *To Hell and Back*, a class about burns. The Squad has recently received some new equipment to meet OSHA standards.

We can always use more members. We will pay for the training. If anyone is interested, please contact a Squad member or stop in during our training and meetings for an application and an EMT training schedule. By receiving your Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) training you can help you community and have a good chance of getting started in a career as an EMT.

We would like to thank all the residents of Roosevelt for their generous donations to the Squad. Without your support we could not operate. Thank You!!!

If any one wishes to make a donation please make it out to the Roosevelt First Aid Squad P.O. Box 274, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Remember all donations are tax deductible.

Safety Notes: External Bleeding

Controlling external bleeding is often very simple. Initially you would apply direct pressure with a sterile bandage over the wound, it will start to control the bleeding. Once bleeding is controlled, maintain the pressure by firmly wrapping a sterile self-adhering roller bandage around the entire wound. Cover the entire area above and below the wound with the dressing. Stretch the bandage tight enough to control the bleeding, but do not constrict blood flow to the rest of the extremity.

If bleeding continues, the dressing may not be tight enough. Do not remove the dressing. Apply more manual pressure over the wound and add additional gauze pads and secure them with a second roller bandage.

Elevating a bleeding extremity by as little as 6" may be used with direct pressure to control bleeding. Whenever possible use both direct pressure and elevation to stop the bleeding.

Pressure points are located where an artery lies near the bone. In the arms, the Brachial located inside the arm by the muscle and for the legs, the Femoral is located in the pelvis area. Always remember, for any medical emergency dial 911.

The Squad is happy to announce the return of one of our members, Jennifer Shamburger/Rindt. She returned back to the states on October 23 after a 13 month tour in Iraq as an Army Medic. Her duty station will be back at Fort Drum, NY until March of 2009. Then she will be station at the US Military Academy at West Point, NY. While Jennifer was in Iraq she made the rank of Sergeant. We are happy to have her home.

Check your house numbers to make sure that they are large enough and colorfully enough so Emergency Services can see them from the roadway. Remember if you need help, just Dial 911. ■

Remember, if you need help just Dial 911.

WOOD DEBRIS PICK-UP IS SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER 6TH

A wood debris pick-up is scheduled for Thursday, November 6, 2008. The rules are branches, twigs and limbs that can be chipped curb-side. The wood should be no larger than 6 inch diameter or 10 feet long. Do not tie the bundles, merely drag wood debris to curbside before November 6th. Feel free to call me with any questions. Thank you.



Early sign-up for litter pick-up day.

LITTER PICK-UP OCTOBER 12, 2008 Report

by guest reporter Nor Ratsok

Nearly half the population of Roosevelt showed up for this Fall's litter pick-up event. Parking near the Post Office and bulletin board was at a premium though many chose to walk on such a beautiful sunny day. The lines were long as hundreds of volunteers were issued their orange vests, gloves, litter poker sticks and empty bags.

County roads, public portions of the town and most streets were to be canvassed for litter by teams of friends, couples, and family groups of all sizes. Ice cold lemonade stations were set up on strategic corners to quench the thirst of eager participants. Shuttle buses were in constant demand as

relief crews were transported to areas in most need. Children and grown-ups were entertained by strolling minstrels, joke tellers and balloon animal makers. One person was heard to remark "we were brought together for a common goal and ended the day as friends".

The carnival like atmosphere was interrupted by the occasional shouts for "more empty bags please" or "I wore holes in my gloves and need a new pair." Our county rep said the residents of Roosevelt are amazing.

First they come out for these community events in huge numbers and second their visual acuity for spotting garbage roadside and beyond rivals that of a coopers hawk spotting songbirds along a field hedgerow! Tons and tons of garbage including several tires were retrieved and sent to county facilities.

The post litter pick-up brunch was a lavish affair as usual. Tuxedoed servers meandered through the crowd with assorted appetizers on their trays. Tables were laden with all kinds of edible faire. It reminded me of the banquet hall in the movie *Robin Hood*. Our hosts, Lenny and Michelle were at the top of their game greeting guests and making sure everyone's needs were met as various musicians strolled about the yard and garden party. A good time was had by all and someone (It may have been Bess Tremper) was heard to exclaim "next litter pick-up, be there or be square!"

My name is Dave Schwendeman and I approved this message! (TIC)

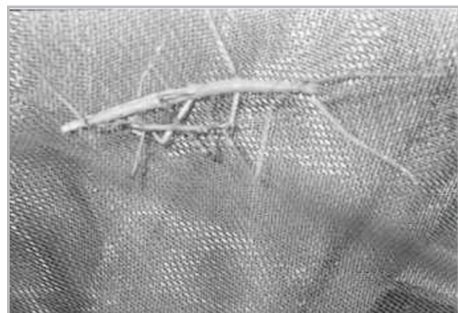
DISCLAIMER – the above litter pick-up news is mostly fiction. The turnout this season was good but we

can always use more people. It is a good time community event held each spring and fall. Volunteers work for about one hour and then everyone is invited back to Lenny, Michelle, and Roman's for a free and delicious brunch. Watch for news of the spring litter pick-up. It's scheduled twice a year and Ron Kostar is in charge.

PHOTOS OF WALKING STICKS

This is so unusual I just had to share it. Frances Duckett discovered this scene at her house toward the end of this summer and was kind enough to send me the photos.

Quite common in Roosevelt is the *praying mantis* which is a large stick like insect, green to light brown in color. They are often found knee- to chest-high clinging to garden and landscape vegetation or hanging on window screens. Much rarer is the *walking stick*. Similar in size and



Two photos of insects called walking sticks. Shown are a larger female and the smaller male of the species.

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MEMORIES

Continued from Page 7

came to turn in the oars of his beloved boat, but at least he had the satisfaction from it being used for something other than firewood at the time.

As we each got old enough, my Mom turned the job of teaching us to drive over to him—good move on her part. I remember for one of my lessons he took me up to a huge local cemetery for a practice drive. I guess part of his reasoning was that I couldn't kill anyone up there—smart man.

My Dad wasn't perfect and he could get tough as nails and lay down the law when needed (and there were definitely times when I needed it), but I guess I prefer to remember the nicer, softer side he had. There was one time when I was feeling very discouraged about something, I don't remember what it was or how old I was. I was still living at home at the time and was on my way up to my room when my Dad stopped me. He must have known how I was feeling when he told me his version of an old story:

One day two frogs wandered into a barn. While getting a drink, they both fell into a bucket of milk. After kicking and kicking and trying to get out, the two tired frogs realized that they were trapped. There was just no escaping from that bucket. The one frog gave up and sank to the bottom. But the other frog kept on kicking his legs. When the farmer came back later to get his bucket of milk, he found one frog drowned and one frog floating on a huge lump of butter.

The advice I got from Dad's little story was very clear: don't give up. Every now and then I still think of

that story. It's a keeper.

When my parents were making the final payment on the mortgage, my sister told me that they let us take the day off from school and go down to the bank with them and even briefly hold the money before making that last payment. I don't remember going down to the bank that day, but I do remember my Dad telling me that the house was paid off and "don't burn it down." I wonder if he realized that my brothers were into making match-head rockets in the basement.

My Mom and Dad have passed away, but I remember the kind of people they were and the good times we all had because of them when I and my brothers and sister were growing up in the old neighborhood in Plainfield, way back then. Roosevelt impresses me as a nice place for a kid to grow up and have lots of nice childhood memories, too. ■

About Two Square Miles Of Stories

Everyone 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:

Pearl Seligman 448-2340
Bess Tremper 448-2701



GIFT

by Judith McNally

in a store:
lotus-shaped glass tea candle
holder
blue and yellow pasta bowl
i crave both
for a while they would be my
treasures
for a while I am unhappy without
them
petulant, even
especially about the lotus

it's not that i can't afford it
i'm trying to have less stuff—
it would look pretty on the
windowsill
in the sunlight i don't even know
how
to get back to the store on my own
and besides,
i do have another glass tea candle
holder

i try it: too small and doesn't sparkle
in the afternoon sunlight

then i remember an old wedding gift
i have never known what to do with
a round glass vase, flowers, leaves
etched
it looks as though it belongs there
having waited thirty-six years
for a home leading the eye
through the window, out to the
evergreen,
bark and decorative grass beyond

now about that pasta bowl...



ENVIRONMENT

Continued from Page 9

color but the shape really looks like a stick! The male is much smaller than the female and in these photos they appear to be discussing something pretty important. They do not stay together very long. This sight is rare in the wild.

Thanks and another “hat tip” to Frances for this rare look at Mother (and Mister) Nature in action.



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST MEETINGS

NEW COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED. The Roosevelt Environmental Commission welcomes two new members Ralph Warnick and Brita Zygler appointed by Mayor Beth prior to our October meeting. We still have room for one more to have a full commission. It’s an interesting way to volunteer in this community and our role in problem solving and decision making with advice to the town council is becoming increasingly important as the ‘GREEN’ movement grows.

LEAVES. What to do with leaves. We are exploring a municipal solution but until we do here is what the Roosevelt Environmental Commission recommends:

Use a mulching lawn mower to chop them where they fall thus adding nutrients to the lawn over winter or dedicate a 4 foot by 4 or 8 foot section in the corner of your yard as a mulching site. The leaves will continue to decay and create a rich potting soil over time. Call me for more information if needed.

The town rule of **NO DUMPING ANYTHING** in the green acres or green zone behind most of our homes is still in effect. We cannot and do not condone dumping autumn leaves, grass or anything in the public areas around town. This applies to landscapers and lawn maintenance services as well.

CEMETERY TRAIL. Plans have been made to move Roosevelt Woodland Trail sign at the cemetery to accommodate concerns voiced by representatives of Congregation Anshei Roosevelt, which owns the cemetery adjacent to the municipal cemetery, which is where the trail now ends. The sign will be re-installed once the boundary lines are marked. I see no big problem here.



OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next scheduled Roosevelt Environmental Commission meeting will be held Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. on November 19, 2008. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is a chance for public comment and questions during each meeting.

If anyone has a newsworthy nature note of interest or comment of environmental concern, please give me a call at 609-443-6204 or drop a note to PO Box 203. Thank you for reading this column and please visit the recgreen.ning.com Web site. ■



**Check your house numbers to make sure that they are
large enough and colorful enough so
Emergency Services can see them from the roadway.**

Roosevelt First Aid Squad



- Wanted to help others.
- Felt obligated to give back what I got.
- Sense of citizenship.
- Interested in the work being done.
- Desire for involvement with a group of friends.

Volunteerism is a tradition in the United States. Americans have a long history of volunteering.

Emergency medical services have depended on volunteer support for many years. The importance of volunteers to the delivery of emergency medical services cannot be overstated. Rural America relies almost totally on the volunteer system to provide EMS services in a timely manner.

Volunteers are characterized by the diversity of their backgrounds, ages, gender, and reasons for volunteering. Since almost one-half of the population engages in volunteer activities, it is no surprise that the typical volunteer can be almost anyone.

The Roosevelt First Aid Squad needs you as a member. We pay for all training. Some of the classes do run on Weekends only, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., then there are classes that run Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and some Sundays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., then there are classes that run Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. These classes are at the MONOC classroom in Wall Twp. just off Rt. 34 or at the Marlboro First Aid building.

The people of Roosevelt pride themselves on volunteering, well now it's time to learn to save a life.

If anyone is interested in joining just e-mail FMFD7568@verizon.net

Jack Rindt, EMT-D
President,
Roosevelt First Aid Squad

Contributors to the Bulletin 2008/2009

Contributions received after the 15th of the month will appear in the next *Bulletin*.

Mel Adlerman
The Alt Family
Louise Baranowitz
Helen & Leon Barth
Naomi & David Brahinsky
Elise & Paul Cousineau
Janis & Joseph Datz
Mary and Carlos Defoe
Maria del Piano
M. Kathleen Drury
Frances Duckett
Virginia North Edwards
Rosa Giletti
Judith & Ed Goetzmann
Cynthia Imbrie

Sheila & Phillip Jaeger
Anna & Ben Johnson
Diana Klein
The Koffler family
Joanna & David Leff
Susanna Margolis
Geraldine Millar
Pat & Ed Moser
Diana & Robert Mueller
Terri M. Nachtman
Tom Orlando
Shari Payson
Eleanor Petersen
Peach & Michael Pryzchoki
Helen Seitz

Pearl & Ralph Seligman
Ellen & Sanford Silverman
Elinor Tucker
Mary & Rod Tulloss
Constance Vankeuven
Laura Vigiano
Natalie & Michael Warner
Jaymie Witherspoon
Erich Woitschlienger
Diane & Joseph Zahora
Judith & Mark Zuckerman

Help us to fill up this page.
Send in a contribution today.
Thank you!

ROOSEVELT ARTS PROJECT

2008 - 2009 Season

Dress rehearsal November 30, 3:00 PM • Full performance December 1, 8:00 PM • Rutgers University

THE OUTLAW AND THE KING, ACT II by Mark Zuckerman & David Herrstrom

An opera by Mark Zuckerman with libretto by David Herrstrom, will be performed in concert. The opera centers on the triangle of King Saul, David, and Jonathan, and in this final act, David displaces Saul.

December 6, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

DIGITAL ART WITH DAVID TEICH AND FLETCHER GRAYSON

A collaborative effort by digital artists Fletcher Grayson and David Teich incorporating photography, video and virtual 3D elements composited into a three screen presentation.

December 13, 12:00 – 5:00 PM, Assifa Space, Sheila Linz House, 40 Tamara Drive

EXHIBITION AND SALE OF WORKS BY SHEILA LINZ AND NAOMI BRAHINSKY

Grand opening of Assifa Space (a Hebrew word meaning Assembly). A collection of ceramics and paintings will be on display by Naomi Brahinsky and Sheila Linz.

January 10, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

OPEN MIC CAFE

Roosevelt residents 13 and older, past and present, are invited to sing, read, do comedy, or play an instrument.

February 7, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

IN SEARCH OF YIDDISHKEIT: A LOCAL COMPOSER'S MUSICAL ODYSSEY OF JEWISH EXPLORATION AND SELF-DISCOVERY

Roosevelt composer and NJ State Arts Council Fellow Mark Zuckerman will talk about the development of Jewish influences, both deliberate and fortuitous, on his music. The composer will illustrate with examples from his body of choral, vocal, and instrumental music, with special emphasis on his internationally-recognized collection of Yiddish choral arrangements.

Continued on Page 15

March 14, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

THE DAWN OF ROMANTICISM: ALAN MALLACH/PIANO RECITAL

In the 1810's and 1820's, as new ways of making music swept across Europe, a generation of composers used the piano to express their most powerful ideas and feelings. Alan Mallach will perform the music of those years, from the works of Beethoven and Schubert, the two towering figures of the era, to lesser-known composers including Muzio Clementi, Jan Dusik and Carl Maria Von Weber, along with a commentary that will illuminate their lives and creative achievements.

April 4, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

THE ROOSEVELT POETS

Join the Roosevelt Poets for their Second (Provocative) Poetic Ensemble: an evening of poetry, music & movement.

May 1 and 2, 8:00 PM, Borough Hall

THE ROOSEVELT STRING BAND

With David Brahinsky on guitar and vocals, Ed Ceder, on bass, guitar, mandolin and one vocal, Paul Prestopino on every string instrument imaginable and at least one vocal, Sarah Houtz on vocals, Joe Pepitone on bass and guitar, and Howie Jacobson, in a guest appearance where he attempts to steal the show (and usually does).

May 30, 12 – 4 PM, Roosevelt Public School

**ROOSEVELT HOUSE TOUR &
30 YEARS OF PHOTOGRAPHS BY ILENE LEVINE**

Come visit the insides and outsides of contemporary Roosevelt homes, see how personal aesthetics have intersected with the demands and desires accompanying contemporary life in our borough. Ilene Levine's exhibit in RPS will feature photographs of her students and their activities spanning her 30-year career.

Voluntary Contribution:

For most events \$5 per adult,
for the String Band \$10 per adult,
\$5 for seniors and children.

Visit RAP's webpage at <http://music.columbia.edu/roosevelt>. Use the link at the top of the page to sign up for our e-mail list. For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616. ■

Not yesterday I learned to know
 The love of bare November days
 Before the coming of the snow

from *My November Guest* by Robert Frost

Looking Ahead to November

About the only thing that can be forecast with certainty about November weather is that it will push, pull, and otherwise convince the leaves off most of the trees in our town. Another good prediction is that those leaves on the ground will play my loathing of leaf raking and leaf blowing against my desire for a lawn as bare as the November trees.

When it comes to long range weather forecasts, I like to look to the *Old Farmer's Almanac*. Not because I think they have a great record of accomplishment, but because it's fun. They've been predicting the weather months ahead for a very long time, including specific weather for 2-day periods of time and longer. For example, the Almanac predicts stormy wet weather for the first two days in November. This isn't the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration with their long-range forecasts one to three months ahead. This is the Almanac predicting the weather for November 1st and 2nd some time last year before their publication date. Wow!

Overall, the Almanac says November will be three degrees warmer than normal. And have about one half inch more precipitation than normal.

A more scientific forecast for November comes from the National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center (CPC). The CPC is a bit more conservative in making detailed forecasts than the *Old Farmer's Almanac*. So, all we can get from them is that November in our area will have equal chances of having an average, below average or higher than average

temperature. They've made the same prediction as to precipitation. We have equal chances of average, below average or above average precipitation in comparison to the average November.

Looking back: September 2008

September was another warmer than normal month in Roosevelt. Seven out of the first nine months of 2008 were warmer than normal. The average temperature for September was 2.6 degrees above normal. There were three 90-degree plus days in the month. The highest temperature occurred on September 4. It was 94.1 that day. The highest temperature ever recorded in the area in September was 103 in 1953. September 2008 was also a drier than normal month with 0.66-inches less than a normal September.

Globally, September 2008 has tied with September 2001 as the ninth warmest Septembers since records began in 1880. Arctic sea ice coverage during September was at its second lowest extent since satellite records began in 1979, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center.



XWeather WordX

CLIMATE - The average of weather over at least a 30-year period. Note that the climate taken over different periods of time (30 years, 1000 years) may be different. The old saying is climate is what we expect and weather is what we get. ■

Sept. 15, 2008 - Oct. 15, 2008

Day	High	Low	Avg	Precip	Degree Days
15	82.7	68.2	75.5	0.01	0.0
16	70.8	58.5	64.7	0.01	0.3
17	72.9	51.1	62.0	0.00	3.0
18	76.3	52.0	64.2	0.00	0.8
19	68.2	48.7	58.5	0.00	6.6
20	68.5	46.9	57.7	0.00	7.3
21	75.4	47.1	61.3	0.00	3.8
22	73.6	55.2	64.4	0.00	0.6
23	69.4	51.6	60.5	0.00	4.5
24	69.3	48.6	59.0	0.00	6.1
25	66.2	51.1	58.7	0.00	6.3
26	66.9	57.9	62.4	1.50	2.6
27	71.5	66.3	68.9	0.26	0.0
28	75.6	66.0	70.8	0.30	0.0
29	74.5	62.4	68.5	1.35	0.0
30	72.1	54.7	63.4	0.10	1.6
1	72.3	58.6	65.5	0.15	0.0
2	64.4	47.5	56.0	0.44	9.1
3	67.6	45.0	56.3	0.00	8.7
4	65.7	44.8	55.3	0.00	9.8
5	69.2	49.1	59.2	0.00	5.8
6	63.7	46.9	55.3	0.00	9.7
7	60.3	37.6	49.0	0.00	16.1
8	64.4	40.1	52.3	0.00	12.8
9	72.3	57.0	64.7	0.14	0.3
10	70.2	50.7	60.5	0.02	4.6
11	68.7	45.1	56.9	0.00	8.1
12	69.1	45.9	57.5	0.00	7.5
13	74.1	52.5	63.3	0.00	1.7
14	72.7	51.4	62.1	0.00	3.0
15	70.2	55.4	62.8	0.00	2.2
Total Precipitation			4.28		
Total Heating Degree-days					142.7

The original recipe called for cooking 1 lb. of dried black beans cooked 2 to 3 hours until the beans become tender. Since I'm always looking for ways to make my life easier, I use 1 can of black beans rinsed and drained instead with very good results. For a vegetarian version, omit the ham and substitute vegetable broth for the beef broth. For a dramatic presentation, scoop out a sugar pumpkin and fill the pumpkin with the soup or use mini-pumpkins for individual servings.



Pumpkin Black-Bean Soup

1 can of black beans	inch cubes
1 tsp. salt	2 1/2 to 3 1/2 cups beef stock
3 tbs. unsalted butter	1 tbs. ground cumin
1 1/2 cup finely chopped onions	3-4 tbs. sherry vinegar
3 lg. cloves of garlic, minced	Salt and pepper to taste
1 can of stewed tomatoes, drained	1/2 to 1 cup sherry to taste
1 cup fresh or canned pumpkin	
8 oz. diced ham cut into 1/8-	

Melt butter in a soup pot over medium heat. (I add a little canola oil so the butter doesn't burn.) When the butter foam has subsided, stir in the onions and garlic and sauté until lightly colored and tender. Set aside.

Place beans and tomatoes into a food processor fitted with steel chopping blade. With a few on-off motions, process until the beans have started to smooth out but are still somewhat chunky. Do this in batches so it doesn't spill out. Return beans and tomatoes to the soup pot. Stir in pumpkin, ham and 2 1/2 cups of stock. Add cumin, vinegar, salt and pepper and stir to mix well. Bring mixture to the boil and then reduce heat and continue cooking uncovered for another 20 to 25 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Stir in the sherry and taste for additional salt, vinegar and other seasonings. If soup is too thick, add more stock. If too thin, continue cooking until thicker.

This recipe yields 8 servings.

Enjoy. ■



OPEN MIC



**ROOSEVELT RESIDENTS, past
and present, ages 13 through adult!**

**Saturday, January 10th, 2009
8 p.m. in the Borough Hall**

TO SIGN UP

contact Deirdre Sheean at 609-443-4179
or email the information to: deirdresheean@hotmail.com

YOUR Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ NJ 08555

email address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please include a short description of your performance
(performance should be kept to 10 min.)

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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: \$50.00/year, \$56.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month.

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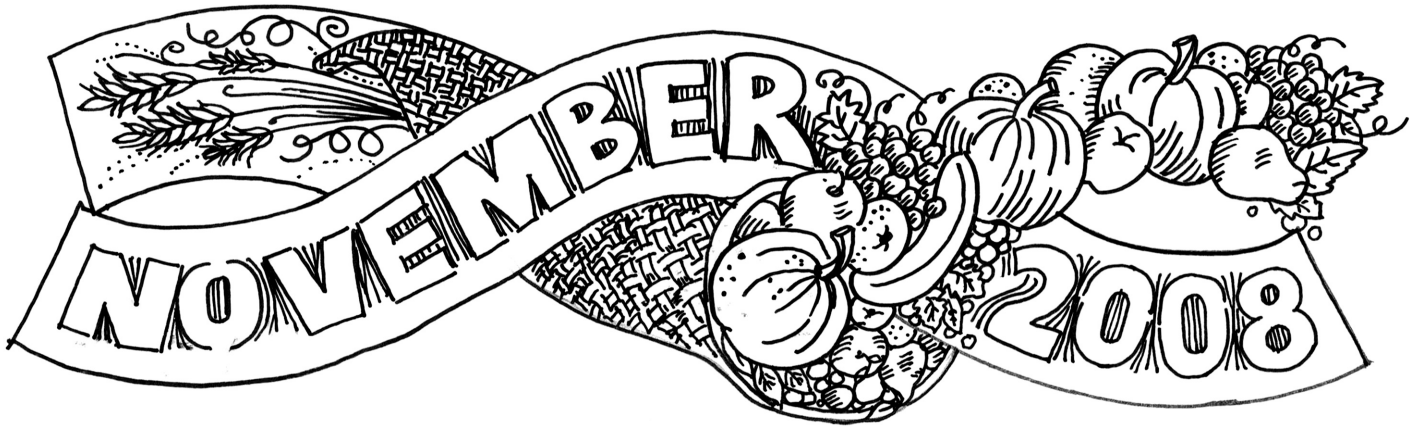
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Please send notice of your events to Ann Baker at P.O. Box 308 or email to abncpcm@comcast.net. I can also be called at 443-8780.

NOVEMBER

3 Mon.	12:30 p.m.	Blood pressure check, Borough Hall
	1:00 p.m.	Seniors Meeting, Borough Hall Gerry Millar, President 448-0351
4 Tues.		ELECTION DAY RPS Early Dismissal
6 Thur.		School Closed, NJEA Convention
7 Fri.		School Closed, NJEA Convention
9 Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training, Jack Rindt, President, 448-9475
11 Tues.	7:30	Planning Board, Borough Hall, Jane Rothfuss, Chair, 448-3713
12 Wed.	7 p.m.	RECYCLE  Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor 448-7701 (notice change of day from Monday)
14 Fri.		RPS Pizza Day
18 Tues.	8:00 p.m.	Roosevelt First Aid Squad Meeting, Borough Hall, Jack Rindt, President, 448-9475
19 Wed.	7:30 p.m.	Environmental Commission, Borough Hall, Dave Schwendeman, Chair 443-6204
20 Thur.	7:30 p.m.	Roosevelt Board of Education, Roosevelt Public School Library, Jaymie Kosa, President, 371-6294
24 Mon.	7 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor 448-7701
26 Wed.		RECYCLE  Early Dismissal
27 Thur.		School Closed, Thanksgiving
28 Fri.		School Closed, Thanksgiving
30 Sun.	3:00 p.m.	Roosevelt Arts Project, Dress Rehearsal of <i>The Outlaw and The King, Act II</i> , an Opera composed by Mark Zuckerman and David Herrstrom, libretto. Nicholas Music Center, Douglass Campus of Rutgers University

DECEMBER

1 Mon.	8:00 p.m.,	RAP, Full Performance of <i>The Outlaw and The King, Act II</i> . Nicholas Music Center, Douglass Campus of Rutgers University.
3 Wed.	7:00 p.m. 7:30 p.m.,	Roosevelt PTA, Executive Meeting, RPS Roosevelt PTA, General Meeting, All Invited, Meredith Murray, President, 371-9714
5 Fri.		RPS Pizza Day
10 Wed.		RECYCLE 
15 Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Council Action Meeting, Borough Hall, Beth Battel, Mayor, 448-7701

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