



Bulletin



Volume 39 Number 5

February 2016

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS

By Sharyn Walz

End of an Era: Mayor Battel Steps Down, Mayor Ellentuck and Council Members Sworn In; Referendum ends in tie – Advisory Council appointed to develop next steps; Council Committees reorganized for 2016

At the Council’s January 4th meeting, former Mayor Beth Battel expressed gratitude to the current Council, Borough Attorney, Clerk, and residents for the privilege to serve as Mayor, as this was her last official Council meeting. New Mayor Jeff Ellentuck and the Council presented Mayor Battel with several tokens of appreciation, including a Key to Roosevelt.

The December 15 referendum on funding the EMS building resulted in a tie vote, and the question was therefore defeated. A special Council meeting was held on January 14, 2016 to address the subsequent EMS crisis. At that meeting, a resolution was passed to allow the creation of an Advisory Council, whose purpose would be to provide the Mayor and Council with alternative plans that take into consideration feasibility, cost, financing and regulatory requirements.

The Advisory Council will have access to the Borough accountant, attorney, and engineer for consultation. Decisions will be made by consensus, not majority vote, which means no member of the Advisory Council, can be “out-voted.” Each member may produce a proposed solution to the EMS crisis, and all options are open—everything from new building construction to dismantling the

Roosevelt Fire Company and relying on a Shared Services Agreement with a neighboring town.

The Chair of the Advisory Council will be Alan Mallach; Jill Lipoti and Michael Ticktin will participate as Council representatives; Jack Rindt will represent the Roosevelt First Aid Squad, John Lenart will represent the Roosevelt Fire Department: and Bob Clark will serve as a representative of the “public committee” that initiated the petition for the referendum and advocated a “no” vote. Several residents expressed their concerns that the Advisory Council should be 50% “yes voters” and 50% “no voters” to accurately reflect the vote. Mayor Ellentuck assured the residents that he had put a great deal of thought into selecting the Advisory Council members, all of whom will have equal access to information and be entitled to have their recommendations and the reasons therefor included in the report, whether other members agree with them or not.

Other resolutions passed at the meeting approved the use of a rented construction trailer to store firefighter gear appropriately and to serve as office space for administrative personnel. Moldy firefighter gear will be thoroughly cleaned to provide firefighters with safer and healthier working conditions. Mayor Ellentuck noted that

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to the 39th edition of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin. There will be ten issues running from September through July. We will not publish in January and August.

We welcome your emailed submissions for articles, letters, poems, artwork, and other items of interest. Please send your submissions and inquiries to Rick Pressler (rooseveltbulletin submissions@gmail.com). Non-digital submissions will be accommodated to the best of our ability, but we cannot guarantee publication. Inclusion of all items is subject to the availability of space and the editorial judgment of our Editor. Items must be received by the 15th of the month to be included in the next issue.

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 as shown.



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

The MEALS ON WHEELS program delivers prepared meals to Roosevelt seniors who need this assistance. Though meals are provided free of charge to recipients, the cost to the program is \$2.50 per meal. Donations to help cover these costs may be sent to Interfaith Neighbors, 810 Fourth Avenue, Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

SENIOR CITIZENS: There is a S.C.A.T. bus provided by Monmouth County Division of Transportation that comes to Roosevelt on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and will take you shopping to ShopRite in East Windsor. The bus will pick you up at your home, you spend 1 ½ hours shopping, and the bus will take you home and leave your groceries at your door. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you wish to go, you must call the S.C.A.T. bus Tuesday no later than 3:00 p.m. at 732-431-6485 and press 1. Give them your name, address, and the town you are from, and your interest in going on Wednesday, the next day.

Roosevelt Open Studio

Roosevelt School Art Room Tuesdays 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.

Open for Roosevelt Residents over 15

Contact: Ellen Silverman, Home: 609 490 0557, Cell: 609 865 7396

An archive of all past issues of the Bulletin can be found online at www.mazicmusic.com/rbb.htm, courtesy of Mark Zuckerman. Current and recent issues can also be found online at www.boroughbulletin.org., the official website of the Borough Bulletin that is maintained by Bulletin Trustee Bob Francis. To have the Bulletin sent to you by email, please go to www.boroughbulletin.org and press the "Push Here to Sign Up for Bulletin" button.

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From the Mayor

By Jeff Ellentuck

Dear Neighbors,

Roosevelt has always been something of a leader (or anomaly) in the electoral process. We had a candidate run unopposed for Mayor and lose to a citizen who did not want the job. We had the first successful recall of a politician in 40 years. Now, we can claim to be the only town in the State to have had a bond referendum end in a tie. Darn, I love this town!

As a result of the tie, the bond ordinance to finance a new emergency services facility was defeated. The referendum is over in all respects. Unfortunately, the referendum process created more personal animosities than I have seen in the last 55+ years. It is good to have political differences. Political debates in Roosevelt have often been rough and tumble, but we were always able to separate our political conflicts from our personal relationships. I am personally asking that each of you think about the fact that everybody in Roosevelt is your neighbor. They are the people you see in the post office, the people who run our ambulances, the neighbor who checks in on you when things are bad, and the parents of your child's playmates. These things are much more important than any local political issue.

We face serious and complex issues, including water and sewer issues, abandoned houses, file storage, public works storage, a limited tax base and, of course, serious emergency services issues. We do not need to focus on political positions and responses, rather we need to work together calmly to solve our problems.

The governing body has been able to keep our municipal taxes virtually unchanged for a decade. I have worked on the Council for most of that decade and will continue as Mayor to work with the Council to keep our taxes limited, despite the dramatic raises in surrounding towns.

I called a special meeting of the Council to deal with the most immediate urgent issues. Our firefighters' personal protection gear is covered with mold. Because this is a health issue that cannot be ignored, we have authorized funds to clean the gear and ordered a construction trailer to be temporarily placed at the Borough Hall. Half of the trailer will provide a clean, dry, heated and lighted area for personal protection gear and the other half will provide space for our office staff to sort decades of old files to comply with applicable laws.

With the help and consent of the Council, I also created an Advisory Committee to provide the Mayor and Council with alternatives regarding our emergency services and our emergency services facilities.

While I will be delighted if the Advisory Committee reaches a consensus, I certainly do not expect that they will. I do expect the Advisory Committee to present well considered alternatives for consideration by the governing body. In my view, the likely alternatives range from (a) a single new building, to (b) a smaller garage and use of an abandoned house for offices, to (c) some type of upgrade to existing facilities, to (d) simply disbanding the emergency services and relying on surrounding towns. I hope the Advisory Committee will consider all of these alternatives and more.

The Advisory Committee as a whole will have access to the Borough's accountants, auditors, engineer and lawyer. The Advisory Committee can request funding from the governing body to retain other needed experts (within the budgetary constraints imposed on the Borough).

Much thought went into the creation and functioning of the Advisory Committee. Decisions can be reached by con-

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THE ROOSEVELT BOROUGH BULLETIN

is distributed free-of-charge to Roosevelt residents. We look forward to and appreciate contributions which are very much 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.

In order to save on postage, we would encourage non-residents who have computers to subscribe to the *Bulletin* online at www.boroughbulletin.org in lieu of receiving a paper copy. Donations from readers, wherever they may be, and regardless of the medium in which they read the *Bulletin*, are still very much welcome, since we could not publish without your support.

PLEASE SEND IN A CONTRIBUTION TODAY. ***WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.***

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the Borough received an award from the Joint Insurance Fund for having the “most improved safety” ratings and commended Councilwoman Jill Lipoti and Kelly Tyers from Public Works for their contributions to improving safety for our residents.

The follow following took place at meetings during December:

January was proclaimed Radon Action Month. Radon is a radioactive gas that is the second leading cause of lung cancer. It is strongly recommended that residents have their homes tested for the presence of Radon gas and remediate if necessary.

Councilman John Impellizzeri, on behalf of the Community Development and Code Enforcement Committee, reported that a house on Homestead Lane is still being used as a bed and breakfast facility, despite the owner’s having being cited by the Borough for violation of the zoning ordinance, and that there will be a hearing on February 2nd. The Code Enforcement Officer is also working with the Deli owners, as tenants cannot remain living there while the Deli is not open. An ordinance was adopted that will allow the Housing Inspector to develop an abandoned property list which would enable the Borough to implement the Abandoned Properties Rehabilitation Act, a State statute that gives a municipality enhanced powers to deal with abandoned properties a timely manner.

Councilman Michael Ticktin, on behalf of the Environment, Health, and Safety Committee, reported that there is a “watershed ambassador” from AmeriCorps New Jersey coming to assist with a stream management project for Empty Box Brook that was initiated by the Environmental Commission. The Council, Environmental Commission, and Public Works will coordinate plans involving overlapping areas of forestry management, stream monitoring, shade trees, and the green belt. A resolution was passed for the

Environmental Commission to apply for a Green Communities Grant to develop Roosevelt’s first Community Forestry Management Plan.

Councilman Ticktin stated that he had been contacted by Jerry Klinger, president of the Jewish-American Society for Historic Preservation, who expressed interest in erecting a roadside marker in recognition of Roosevelt’s having been founded, to quote Benjamin Brown’s tombstone, as a “Jewish Agro-Industrial Cooperative Colony.” This would be done at no cost to the Borough. Mr. Klinger will be invited to a future Council meeting to provide additional details. Councilman Ticktin also mentioned the Environmental Commission’s “Attack on Autumn Olive Day” to remove this invasive species along a section of Rt. 571. The date of the event will be aligned with a branch pick-up in Spring 2016. Residents who would like to help with this event can email the Invasive Species Committee at RooseveltInvasive@outlook.com

Councilman Tom Curry, on behalf of the Public Works Committee, reported that there are several safety issues with the current firehouse, including a substantial pothole that prevents the doors from being closed properly. The mold issue needs immediate attention for the health and safety of all members, and the new firetruck must be stored before it gets ruined by exposure to the elements.

Councilwoman Peggy Malkin, on behalf of the Finance Committee, reported that the tax collector had advised her that all unoccupied properties in town are current on their sewer and tax bills. Since many banks contract out for collection efforts, if a payment does come late, the Borough receives the interest on the late payment.

Jeff Ellentuck (while still a Council member), on behalf of the Administration Committee,

announced that the Borough is seeking a new Zoning Officer—no certification is needed since there is no licensing or certification of zoning officers, but knowledge of, and experience with, zoning ordinances is essential.

Councilwoman Jill Lipoti, on behalf of the Utilities Committee, reported that there was a substantial leak at the valve in the vault of the water tower that was temporarily repaired just before a DEP inspection. A permanent repair is needed in the very near future, but the DEP representatives were pleased with the progress and noted that the issues at the water tower should be the Council’s focus in the immediate future. The utility engineer from 3M has expressed an interest in working on the necessary repairs and helping the Borough consider options within the sewer plant. Several bids that came in for other water tower repairs have been rejected, as they were so disparate that it suggested a lack of clarity regarding the work. The Borough Engineer will review the specifications and re-bid the project. Councilwoman Lipoti attended a conference regarding financing options and several entities were willing to look at Roosevelt’s utilities, including USDA, Middlesex Water Company, and the University of North Carolina.

There was a presentation on Monmouth County’s Pilot Program for property assessment, in which a contract with Realty Data Systems provides inspections for 20% of the homes in town each year, after which taxes are adjusted to market value. This pilot program is designed to adjust assessments annually, instead of once every ten years or so, thus avoiding sudden large changes, and to allow any appeals to be heard and decided before municipal budgets are adopted. This helps prevent budget shortfalls in the event of a ruling against the municipality in a tax appeal. The program was authorized by the State Legislature as a 5-year demonstra-

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tion program in Monmouth County. Recently, in response to objections from some municipalities in the county, the Monmouth County Board of Taxation voted to allow municipalities to opt out of the program, while also urging them not to do so before the end of the 5-year period. No decision was made by the Council as to whether there would be any advantage to Roosevelt in opting out.

The Roosevelt Fire Company reported that they had a meeting on 12/19/15 and provided Council their nominations for Fire Company Officers. All Officers were approved by the Council with the exception of Chief, and a meeting will be held in the near future to reassess the situation after several firefighters expressed their support for the current Chief.

At the reorganization meeting on January 4th, Councilman Jeff Ellentuck was sworn in as Mayor and Councilmembers Jill Lipoti and John Impellizzeri also took their oaths of office, as did Councilman Michael Ticktin, whose term had expired at the end of 2015, but who was chosen by the Council to fill the seat formerly held by Mr. Ellentuck.

Councilman-elect Tom Curry submitted a letter resigning from the Council for work-related reasons, thus creating a vacancy that will have to be filled. The municipal Democratic committee (consisting of Ann Baker and Bob Atwood) has 30 days to provide the Council with three nominees. If no list of nominees is submitted, the Council will then have the right to appoint any eligible resident.

In addition to passing many standard resolutions related to running the Borough, the Council appointed its committees as follows:

Administration Committee—Chair: Stacy Bonna, Member: Jill Lipoti

Utilities Committee—Chair: Jill Lipoti, Members: Stacy Bonna and John Impellizzeri

Public Works—Chair: John Impellizzeri, Members: Michael

Ticktin and Jill Lipoti

Community Development—Chair: Michael Ticktin, Member: Peggy Malkin

Environmental Committee—Members Michael Ticktin and Peggy Malkin

Finance Committee—Chair: Peggy Malkin, Members, Stacy Bonna and John Impellizzeri

Councilman Ticktin was also appointed as the town historian.

Mayor Ellentuck noted areas of concern:

- Resignation of a valuable Councilman
- Slew of abandoned homes
- Water/sewer issues
- Urgent need to acquire an EMS building
- Municipal infrastructure needs attention
- Personal animosity between residents over EMS situation

Public Comment

Joe Trammell requested that Eitan Grunwald (Chair of the Environmental Commission) walk with him along the “no-name” creek behind Pine Drive as it appears to be ten to twelve inches higher than usual. Mr. Grunwald agreed to the walk and said that he would mention the issue to the AmeriCorps New Jersey “Watershed Ambassador” who is coming to look at Empty Box Brook and make recommendations for its restoration. Mr. Trammell also requested that an architect inspect the abandoned gas station property as a possible future site for an EMS Building. Mayor Ellentuck advised that this site was already considered and deemed not appropriate, one reason being that any such use would require extension of water and sewer lines.

Councilwoman Peggy Malkin made a public appeal regarding the recent environment in town, given the divi-

sion between residents regarding the EMS Building bond ordinance. Councilman Malkin reminded residents that Roosevelt has survived many other controversies and that the current animosity and toxicity needs to stop in the best interest of all.

Tim Curry requested assistance from the Borough engineer to remove a support wall to make the current firehouse more functional. Chris Suk made clear the Fire Company’s efforts to maintain the Mack Firetruck as original as possible so that it can be put in a fire museum in Freehold. April Suk inquired about setting up a “GoFundMe” account to raise funds towards a new firehouse and was informed that there are no legal barriers preventing her from doing so.

Jeff Klein from the Roosevelt First Aid Squad publicly thanked Jack Rindt for his 19 years of service and welcomed John Vo as the new Captain. Jeff also commended Chris Suk for consistently responding to calls over the years, day in and day out, even when no one else was. Jeff noted that First Aid Squads in New Jersey are struggling, as fewer volunteers are available and more paid squads have to be used instead.

Mark Connors advised that the Roosevelt First Aid Squad has four new members and also commended Jack Rindt for providing excellent training for its members. Mr. Connors, who has had experience with many first aid squads, stated his opinion that Roosevelt’s First Aid Squad building is, “by far, the worst in the state.”

Assenka Oksiloff spoke about the need to file a formal complaint after feeling that her family was harassed by the Fire Company blaring sirens outside of her home, which she understood to be retaliation for their opposition to the ordinance to fund the EMS Building.

Jeb Shahn requested a systematic resolution process as the referendum ended with a tie. She noted that the

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FROM THE MAYOR (CONT'D.)

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sensus but not by majority vote. In other words, none of the representatives of the Committee of Petitioners for Referendum on Ord. 15-007 or the Fire Department or First Aid or any other member can be voted down. If there is no consensus, the Advisory Committee will come back with alternate proposals. Each member is entitled to produce a proposal. No member can be out voted and each is entitled to produce a proposal. All fully developed proposals that meet our needs should and will be fully and equally considered.

You may ask what purpose is served by the Advisory Committee if it will not come up with a single plan or if one group will not "win." The purpose is to assure that a representative from each interested group: has access to the same information as each other member; has an equal opportunity to ask questions of experts and professionals; and has an equal opportunity to create a fully developed plan for presentation to the town and governing body.

There is no way to avoid the Advisory Committee redoing much of the initial investigation and research already completed. However, by examining

it together they may be able to reach some level of comfort and consensus regarding the underlying facts and restrictions. Regardless of who produces alternative plans, each of the alternatives should be examined carefully and with an open mind.

The Advisory Committee is comprised of representatives from each concerned group and a chairperson. Alan Mallach kindly agreed to be the Chairman. I thank him from the bottom of my heart for agreeing to take what is surely an otherwise thankless job. The two Council members are Michael Ticktin and Jill Lipoti. John Lenart represents the fire department. Jack Rindt represents First Aid. Bob Clark represents the Committee of Petitioners. In choosing the members of the Advisory Committee, I have kept to the following rules to the fullest extent possible: (a) each member must be able to understand expert advice concerning the financial, practical and legal restraints applicable to the process and solutions, as well as the requirements surrounding emergency services, (b) each member must have a calm demeanor, (c) no member can have expressed personal animosity towards members of emergency

services or towards the bond opponents, nor have other personal or legal vendettas that would cloud their ability to listen and interact calmly and with an open mind, and (d) no member shall have been a lightning rod in the referendum process.

Committee meetings will be recorded and notes will be distributed as widely as possible. I encourage each of you to provide your ideas to the committee members and to attend open committee meetings to listen to the committee members and the experts.

I have utmost faith in the ability of the members of the Advisory Committee to represent their respective constituencies while calmly and diligently working to provide us all with reasonable alternative solutions to our emergency services issues. I leave it to them to do so as we all focus on the other urgent issues facing our historic borough.

I promise to do my best to represent all of our residents in working to resolve the problems we face.



in city planning, is currently involved in assisting the Borough with a redevelopment project for the abandoned garage site. While it will be expensive to connect the property to the sewer system, Mr. Mallach is envisioning the development of a restaurant or brew pub in that location. The site is in a highly visible location, and may attract a quality operation. The next steps in the process would be for Council to adopt an ordinance and send out a Request for Proposals. For now, the New Jersey State Police have requested that the Borough secure the site, as it is open to trespassers and poses a hazard.

BOROUGH COUNCIL NEWS (CONT'D.)

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Public Committee is looking for a compromise with respect, cooperation and courtesy. She suggested an Ad Hoc Committee which would represent both yes and no voters, including Fire Company and First Aid Squad members, Council members, and equal numbers of those who supported and opposed to the ordinance. The function of this committee would be to review the needs of the Borough, investigate all options, and advise Council on their findings. This committee should be provided access to information and buildings, as well as the cooperation of the Council.

Maureen Parrot suggested that the Council schedule committee meetings at specific times so that the public can attend. She requested that the five-minute time limit for public speakers be rescinded, and that an official Borough website is necessary, as well as official Borough email addresses for all Council members.

Shan Ellentuck encouraged residents to realize that the current disagreement over the EMS Building will pass, as it is a short-term problem and that Rooseveltians have historically dealt with such problems and moved on peacefully.

Alan Mallach, whose background is



MISSION

To educate and inspire all students to excel academically*, to become independent and creative thinkers, skillful communicators and lifelong learners. Roosevelt Public School nurtures and challenges the unique potential of each student so that our children will develop individual, social and civic responsibility as well as respect for themselves, each other, and the environment.

*to achieve or exceed N.J. CCCS at all grade levels

The Roosevelt Public School Board of Education met on January 7, 2016, for its Annual Reorganization. Election results from the November 2015 election for three three-year terms were announced:

By Cornelia Spoor

Natalie Warner 146 votes

Leo Gordon 135 votes

John Petrillo 14 votes

The newly elected Board members were sworn in, and officers were elected for the year. Natalie Warner was elected President, Kelly Yang was elected Vice President, and Cornelia Spoor was elected as delegate to the New Jersey School Boards Association. The Board further agreed to function as a Board of the Whole for upcoming year.

The Board reviewed and adopted the New Jersey School Board Member Code of Ethics, and established the calendar for the 2016-2017 school year: Board meetings will be held on July 28, 2016; August 25, 2016; September 29, 2016; October 27, 2016;

November 17, 2016; December 22, 2016; January 5, 2017, for BOE reorganization; January 26, 2017; February 23, 2017; March 23, 2017; April 27, 2017; May 25, 2017; June 22, 2017; July 27, 2017; and August 24, 2017. Board meetings for the remainder of the 2015-2016 year are: February 25, 2016; March 17, 2016; April 28, 2016; May 26, 2016; and June 30, 2016.

The Board then heard a presentation on the district's annual audit by Rodney Haines, CPA, PSA, RMA, of Holman Frenia Allison PC. No exceptions were found during the audit. The Board expressed its appreciation to Bernie Biesiada, School Business Administrator, and to the business office team from Millstone for a job well done.

Some Thoughts and Recollections Following MLK Day

(In memory of Steve Carey, Haverford College, '37)

The right to hope is not predicated on the success of our predecessors—
 Each generation must rekindle its hopes and dreams with whatever kindling it can find.
 Hindsight invites the skeptic and would shame our naiveté,
 But I think of something an old pacifist warrior once told me...
 About how he became more idealistic as he grew older.

He had seen war and devastation serving in the American Friends Service Committee
 in Europe following World War II,
 And everything that had come since (this conversation was in 1977 or 8),
 And everything he had seen in his long life,
 Had only strengthened his conviction
 That peace and decency must and would prevail.

-- Cooper Carter



There are lots of events happening here at RPS. On Tuesday, January 19th, the whole school kicked off Spirit Week activities by mixing it up at lunch tables, celebrating “GLSEN’s No Name Calling Week” and donning the hats that Ms. Bettie Witherspoon crocheted for the whole



school in RPS school colors! (See the school picture) We are so grateful for her thoughtfulness.

Our school wide mural is complete - it was inspired by Ms. Bondy’s class activity last June when every class made a commitment to learn about Ben Shahn’s mural after the school received a grant from Educational Leaders as Scholars. Each student and staff member made a tile to represent the plan of Roosevelt; I added the slogan, “Roosevelt Public School... The center of our community.” We were thrilled that our brand new kiln, given to us by the Roosevelt Education Foundation, was used to fire all of the tiles. (See the mural picture)



Please come in from the cold and stop by to see it in our lobby!

BREAKING BREAD

Ingredients:

3 cups	Sifted enriched Flour	1/2 tsp	ground Nutmeg
2 cups	Sugar	1/2 tsp	Salt
1 cup	Mayonnaise or 2 sticks of butter	1/4 tsp	ground Cloves
1/3 cup	Milk	3 cups	chopped peeled Apples
2	Eggs	1 cup	chopped Craisins or Raisins
2 tsp	Baking Soda	1/2 cup	chopped Walnuts
1 1/2 tsp	ground Cinnamon		

Amazin’ Craisin Cake

Submitted by
Jill Lipoti

Preparation:

1. In large bowl with mixer at low speed, beat together first 10 ingredients for 2 minutes, scraping bowl frequently. Batter will be very thick.
2. With a spoon, stir in apples, craisins, and nuts.
3. Spoon batter into a 9” X 13” pan lined with parchment paper.
4. Bake in 350-degree oven for 45 minutes or until toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.
5. Cool in pan for 10 minutes then remove from pan.



NJ Department of Environmental Protection

24-Hour Hotline

**1-877-WARNDEP or
1-877-927-6337**

For reporting spills, hazardous discharges, and other environmental emergencies.

Invasive Plant of The Month: Wintercreeper

By Steven Taylor

You may remember the Burning Bush (*Euonymus alatus*) article from a few months ago. Invasiveness seems to run in the *Euonymus* family. We thought about following up with an article about another *Euonymus*, Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), but since we did not know if there was any in town, we opted for an article on a more common invasive, Japanese honeysuckle.

Recently on a trip to the post office, I noticed, hiding in plain sight, climbing up a sycamore tree in front of the school ... Wintercreeper!

In the yard, Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*) is a reasonably well-behaved, flowerless, evergreen ground cover. However, if it finds a tree to climb, it changes, sprouts aerial rootlets and heads upward, spreading over anything in its way, even over-topping trees. Birds spread the seeds and it escapes into the wild. This native of China, Japan and Korea is considered a moderate and emerging threat to native plant communities. There are several varieties of different colored foliage that are sold in garden centers and nurseries. Although deer and the *Euonymus* scale (a sap sucking insect) may slow it down, once in the wild, the flowerless creeper stage shades out germinating natives, and the climbing-flowering stage covers trees.

In its creeping stage, it looks similar to our native American strawberry-bush (*Euonymus americanus*), which is less dense in the creeping phase and doesn't climb. Other look-alikes include periwinkle (*vinca minor*) and Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*), both invasive.

If you have planted Wintercreeper, please try to discourage it from climbing trees. A little strategic pruning

should suffice. If you would like to replace it with a more ecofriendly plant, there are a number of natives from which to choose:



Bearberry

Arctostaphylos uva-ursi - dry, sandy and rocky soils, full sun to light shade

Sweetfern

Comptonia peregrina - well-drained dry to damp sandy soils, full sun to light shade

Allegheny Spurge (aka Allegheny pachysandra)

Pachysandra procumbens - humus-rich, neutral soil, part shade to shade

Wild Blue Phlox

Phlox divaricate - dry soil, part shade to full shade, flowers rose/lavender, violet/blue, or white

Creeping juniper

Juniperus horizontalis - medium to dry soil, full sun, several named varieties

References:

http://wiki.bugwood.org/Euonymus_fortunei/NJ

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/eufo.htm>

<http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/problem-plants-and-animals/invasive-plants/wintercreeper-control>

<http://plantfacts.osu.edu/pdf/0246-424.pdf>



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Opinions expressed here are those of the writers.

To the Editor

I attended the January 14 council meeting hoping to see the formation of an emergency services advisory committee that reflected the outcome of the December 15th referendum. Unfortunately that was not to be—instead our mayor announced the formation of his own committee which, I feel, does not represent all of the community's viewpoints and concerns on this issue.

It was my understanding that this committee was being formed to promote a constructive atmosphere whereby an exchange of ideas and recommendations would take place and a consensus may be reached as to how to proceed. However doubtful I may be, I am hoping this committee will be able to achieve an acceptable compromise. In the meantime, I urge all concerned Roosevelt citizens to attend future Borough Council meetings. I know how hard it is to drag yourself out of the house on a cold night after a long day of work, but I think this is an important issue that deserves attention and input from the community.

Deirdre Sheean

WINTER SOLSTICE

Weaving and binding sweet-scented pine boughs
into a wreath, I hear the crows
crackling about the cold. Or about how snow
sheets the ground, a white
beyond their black imagining

as sky soars
beyond mine. Wreathed in green,
I breathe in pine pitch, ice crystals and light.
The crows keep wisecracking
and, for one long moment, I cannot imagine dying.

David Herrstrom

Free Food Distribution

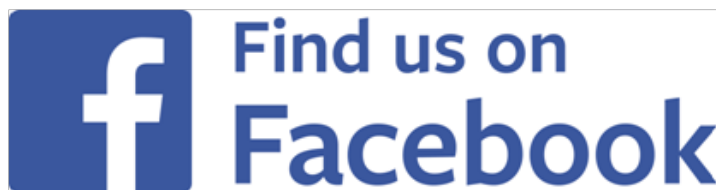
To All Roosevelt Residents:

Do we have any needy families in Roosevelt? I'm sure we must; there is nothing to be embarrassed about. Times are hard, people are out of work or on a fixed income.

Food is distributed, free of charge, by volunteers one Saturday a month between 10:00 am and noon at the Clarksburg Community Center, Route 571, next to the Clarksburg Fire House. You have to pick it up yourself since there is no delivery. No questions as to eligibility will be asked.

The Saturdays do vary, so when I find out which Saturday, I will put a notice on the bulletin board at the Roosevelt Post Office. Call me if you have questions.

Geraldine Millar
609.448.0351



Keep up to date with the latest happenings, events and announcements. Follow the Borough of Roosevelt on Facebook: www.facebook.com/RooseveltBoro

If you would like your organization's event posted to the Borough's Facebook page, please send event details to aprilsuk@gmail.com

Roosevelt Resident to Run Boston Marathon for Domestic Violence Shelter

Roosevelt resident Ellen Rothfuss will be running in the world-famous Boston Marathon on April 18 and raising \$10,000 as a charity runner for Casa Myrna Vasquez, one of New England's leading women's domestic violence and dating violence shelters.

Rothfuss is a deans-list junior at Emerson College in Boston studying Communication Science and Disorders. While at Emerson, Ellen has enriched her studies by being in student theater productions, serving with an early education program for preschool children in low-income neighborhoods, working as a student ambassador tour guide for Emerson College, and joining a professional sorority. In love with Boston and looking for a way to further challenge herself, Ellen focused on running in the Boston Marathon, held every year on Patriot's Day, a Massachusetts holiday. There was only one problem – Ellen was not a runner and had never even run a 5K (3.1 miles). In August, she took the first step toward her goal and ran a 5K to raise money for Eden Autism Services, a Princeton non-profit with a mission to improve the lives of children and adults with autism. In October, she ran the Tufts Health Care 10K for Women (6.2 miles) in Boston. With those two runs under her belt, Ellen got more serious about running the Boston Marathon and began work to make it happen.

The Boston Marathon is the world's oldest annual marathon and one of the best known road races. Managed by the Boston Athletic Association, the marathon is also sponsored by the John Hancock Corporation which donates hundreds of entries each year to selected non-profit organizations. The organizations use their entries to recruit "charity runners" who pledge to raise money for their causes. John Hancock's program, together with the Boston Athletic Association's Charity Program, raised \$28.3 million dollars for charities in 2015.

Rothfuss was selected in November through a competitive application process to be a charity marathon runner for Casa Myrna Vasquez, Boston's largest provider of shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence. She has committed to raising \$10,000 for the non-profit. Casa Myrna helps its runners with fundraising through CrowdRise, an online charitable fundraising platform. So far, Ellen has raised \$2000 through on and off-line donations. Two babysitting events held in January at Roosevelt Public School with the help of friends raised \$440. She is currently working on soliciting donations and planning for future fundraising events, including an open-mic night, a comedy show, and a grilled cheese sandwich sale in her dormitory for students craving comfort food while studying.

Casa Myrna has provided Ellen training support through Furey26.2, a coaching program to get amateur runners safely ready for the marathon. With a weekly schedule of long runs and hill runs, the program provides water, snacks, travel coordination, the camaraderie of running with 50-75 other amateur marathoners, and expert advice about training and injuries.

Readers who would like to support Ellen and make a donation to Team Casa Myrna can visit <https://www.crowdrise.com/CasaMyrnaBoston2016/fundraiser/ellenrothfuss>

To follow Rothfuss' training and fundraising, go to www.facebook.com/RunForCasaMyrna

Volunteers Needed for Environmental Projects

The 2015 Environmental Resources Inventory recommended further action in three priority areas:

- Managing the health of our forest, including consideration of fire hazards.
- Managing the control of invasive plant species.
- Managing the health of our streams, including monitoring and the possibility of restoration.

The Environmental Commission is developing projects to address each of these priority areas. If you'd like to learn more and get involved, contact Eitan Grunwald at eitan@eitangrunwald.com or (609) 426-4636.

In July of 1968, Irene Block took her first vacation as an adult and her life would be forever changed. Irene traveled with her girlfriends from Ohio to the Catskill Mountains for a week of fun and adventure, and quite unexpectedly met her soon-to-be husband. Irene first came to Roosevelt that same year to visit Bruce's family, who lived at 13 School Lane. Irene and Bruce were married the following year, and moved to Hightstown. Irene spent her first year feeling isolated from her family back in Ohio, but then a home on North Valley Road became available and the newlyweds moved back to Roosevelt. The cost of the home at that time was \$17,000!

Bruce and Irene quickly started their family in Roosevelt. They have raised two daughters, both of whom grew to be compassionate and giving people like their parents. As the girls grew, Irene decided she would make a concerted effort to make friends, and became involved with other parents accompanying their children on field trips. Irene also spent two years as a Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts. Irene, who was trained as a nurse, worked at the co-op nursery school and then at Meadow Lakes, providing care for the elderly. Irene found her ultimate niche by joining the First Aid Squad and considers her 10-year service as the "highlight of my career."



Irene describes the First Aid Squad as a true family and a wonderful experience. Her nursing philosophy includes the quiet acceptance of death as a part of life, and this philosophy provided comfort to Irene as she cared for her mother until she passed.

Irene's favorite memories of her life in Roosevelt include the huge BBQ parties she and Bruce host to celebrate the Fourth of July. Over the years, the parties have grown from having a few friends over for burgers to hiring caterers to feed 80-90 people and earning the titles of "Mr. and Mrs. Fourth of July." Friends and family come to enjoy the food, the laughter, the swimming, and even the Slip 'n Slide. Most guests bring a dessert, and Irene enjoys sharing the desserts with the seniors at Solar Village.

Looking back, Irene commented that once you come to Roosevelt, it is the people of Roosevelt that keep you here. People in Roosevelt truly care for one another, check up on neighbors who may not be feeling well, get involved with various activities, and nurture a sense of belonging within this community. Irene is currently serving on the Board of Directors for the Synagogue, and remembers that when she first arrived, the Synagogue was empty. Roosevelt experienced what was originally thought to be a revitalization of the Jewish community, but the Yeshiva misrepresented itself to the Board of Trustees and the reverberation divided the town with a bitter court battle. While the Synagogue currently hosts a good Rabbi, a real "mensch," Irene pointed out that the Roosevelt community is resilient and capable of healing no matter what issues may arise. "Unity" is Roosevelt's trademark characteristic.

Bruce was born and raised in Roosevelt, and remembers when



Frenchie's gas station was the hub of the town, the place to be. "Frenchie" was a nickname affectionately given to Leon Vasseur, whose sons worked the station after school, pumping gas, fixing cars, and talking about hot rods. Afterwards, they might take a walk to Sol's grocery store, which was located where the current Post Office stands. At the time, the Post Office was tiny and stood where the bulletin board is now. Everyone knew everyone, and if kids stood on the "hitching corner" (Pine and N. Rochdale), they could get a ride into Hightstown to go to the movies. Other favorite pastimes include playing volleyball at the school, or building a tent fort in the backyard to eat, play cards, and sometimes smoke cigarettes. Bruce remembers hanging out with Mark Pogrebin, who lived on Pine Drive, across the street from the Shally family who kept a monkey as a pet!

Irene and Bruce describe the town culture at that time as "Mayberry". Much of the work needed in the borough was done by volunteers, and this was very different from the way things were back in Ohio. Open Studio days were held so artists could showcase their work and their music. It's good to see that tradition continuing today. Irene's advice to any newcomers: Join something and meet people; don't be a hermit! Sound advice from a wise and wonderful woman.

The Roosevelt Arts Project

The Roosevelt Arts Project (RAP) is a collaborative venture of friends and neighbors in and around Roosevelt, New Jersey. Bringing together artists in a variety of media, our mission is to foster collaboration and present their work to the public.

Founded in 1986 by the nationally known artists, Bernarda Bryson Shahn and Jacob Landau, and others including writers and musicians, the Roosevelt Arts Project presents a series of annual programs. This varied series premieres new works by Roosevelt playwrights, painters and potters, folk singers, poets, and composers, as well as experimental collaborations.

DATE	VENUE	EVENT
Saturday, January 30 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	Funny Stories & Tales Members of our community will read stories and tales from various traditions (including Jewish, Islamic, Celtic and American) to make us smile and make us laugh (and perhaps even shed a tear or two as well?).
Saturday, March 26 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	Soundings Brad Garton will read excerpts from three of his “book-apps”, personal multimedia meditations with integrated sound, graphics and text. Part performance, part concert, and part story-telling, these excerpts will include tales taken from life in Roosevelt.
Saturday, April 16 8:00 PM	Borough Hall	A Leap in the Dark Join the Roosevelt Poets As they explore the ordinary Mysteries around (and within) us.
Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9 8:00 PM \$10 suggested contribution (\$5 students and seniors)	Borough Hall	“The Roosevelt String Band in Concert” David, Paul, Ed, Sam, Kai, Joe and Howie will present an evening of folk music guaranteed to stimulate great thoughts, mighty feelings, sweet sensations and a whole lot of fun
Saturday June 4 12:00-5:00 PM	Assifa Space	Nature Art Show Photographs, paintings and drawings of nature will be displayed. Sounds of nature fill the environment as the viewer contemplates the theme.

The Roosevelt Mural

The mural shown in the header was created by Ben Shahn in 1937-38 to commemorate the New Deal resettlement community of Jersey Homesteads, now called Roosevelt, N.J. The mural can still be seen in the Roosevelt Public School. As one of the first and finest art works in the town, it is only appropriate that it should serve as the header for the RAP site.

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://www.rooseveltartsproject.org>

Be sure to join our mailing list at http://www.rooseveltartsproject.org/mail_form.php so that you get the brochure sent to you via email each season and timely reminders of each upcoming event.

For further information call Robin Gould at (609) 448-4616.

Contributors to the Bulletin 2015/2016

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

James Alt & Susan Schwartz
Robin & Robert Axel
Janet & Richard Bernardin
Bruce & Irene Block
Linda Block
Eric Blumenfeld &
Annie Raulerson
Charlotte Bondy
Bondy/Vuolle Family
Alexandra Bonfante-Warren
Ulrich & Stacey Bonna
Jacqueline Anne Carperter
Susan & Robert Cayne
William & June Counterman
Paul & Elise Cousineau
M. K. Drury
Virginia Edwards
Bertram & Shan Ellentuck
Lou & Irma Esakoff
Bob Francis
Judith & Ed Goetzmann
Vindhia Gordon

Robin Gould
Karen & Eitan Grunwald
Len & Michelle Guye-Hillis
Al Hepner
Constance & David Herrstrom
Louise & David Hoffman
Cynthia Imbrie
In memory of Bess Tremper
Sheila & Phil Jaeger
Henry and Kate John-Alder
Anna & Ben Johnson
Lynn Lawson
Karen Leibowitz
Jill Lipoti & Brad Garton
Steven & Mary Macher
Julia McArdle
Geraldine Millar
Ed Murphy
Murray family
Teri Nachtman
Lilia and Youri Nazarov
Lian Neeman

Tom Orlando
Bob & Alison Petrilla
Gregg and Elizabeth Possiel
Michael Przychocki
Patricia Roberts
Roosevelt Arts Project
Merle & Irv Rose
Marguerite Goldberg Rosenthal
Helen Seitz
Jonathan & Jeb Shahn
David Socholitzy
Shirley Sokolow
Cornelia Spoor
Arthur Stinson
Emily & Steve Taylor
Michael & Marilyn Ticktin
Mary & Rod Tulloss
Carol Watchler & Ann Baker
Judy & Bob Weinberg
Frank Wiesinger &
Theresa Secks
Mark & Judith Zuckerman

Help us to fill up this page.

Thank you for your generosity!

Send in a contribution today.

Please send contributions to:

Roosevelt Borough Bulletin, Inc.

P.O. Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555

Help Wanted

The Roosevelt Borough Bulletin is a fully volunteer effort of its writers, editors, layout artist, and distribution captain. We would like to expand our team:

Roving Reporter – 4 hours a month – Write short features that focus on Roosevelt-specific themes.

Managing Editor in Training – 4 hours a month – Work with current Managing Editor to learn the editorial ropes for eventually assuming this esteemed role. Learn valuable editorial skills from a seasoned, if slightly over the hill, former professional editor who will unreservedly share everything there is to know about the production of the Roosevelt Borough Bulletin.

BUSINESS SPONSORS

The Bulletin publishes free-of-charge public information listings from Roosevelt residents and businesses, and from those in the immediate vicinity with ties to Roosevelt. Write: Roosevelt Bulletin, Box 221, Roosevelt, NJ 08555. Contributions are appreciated and are tax-deductible (suggested: \$50.00/year, \$60.00 if over 5 lines.) Deadline is the 15th of each month

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F E B R U A R Y

2 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
2 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
8 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Mayor Jeff Ellentuck
10 Wed.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
11 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
14 Sun.	10:00 am	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Training Jack Rindt, Training Officer
15 Mon.		Roosevelt Public School Closed, Presidents' Day
16 Tues.	7:00 pm	Roosevelt First Aid Squad, Business Meeting, Jeff Klein, President
17 Wed.	7:00 pm	Environmental Comm. Mtg., Borough Hall, Eitan Grunwald, Chair.
22 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Mayor Jeff Ellentuck
24 Wed.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
25 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061

M A R C H

1 Tues.	12:30 pm	Senior Citizens Meeting, Borough Hall.
1 Tues.	7:00 pm	Planning Board, Borough Hall
9 Wed.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
10 Thurs.	7:00 pm	Fire Company Business Meeting, Borough Hall Chris Suk, President 490-0931
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17 Thurs.	7:30 pm	RPS Board of Education, Natalie Warner, President, 609-903-1061
23 Wed.		Recycling Pickup ♻️
26 Sat.	8:00 pm	Soundings. Roosevelt Arts Project, Roosevelt Borough Hall Brad Garton reads excerpts from three of his "book-apps."
28 Mon.	7:00 pm	Council Meeting, Borough Hall Mayor Jeff Ellentuck

RECYCLING DATES
February 10, 24
March 9, 23

ZONING PERMITS
Tuesdays 4 - 6 PM

STATE PERMITS
Wednesdays 1 - 3

BOROUGH HOUSING INSPECTIONS
Tuesdays 5 - 6 PM,
Borough Hall



An electronic calendar was installed on the Roosevelt Board of Education's website containing information about state testing, upcoming field trips, events and additional pertinent information. Learn more about all of the happenings in our school, visit RPS website: www.rps1.org. Please send notice of your events to Bulletin at P.O. Box 221 or email to RooseveltBulletinSubmissions@gmail.com.